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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 30TH JULY.

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER of Madras reports that in February 1877 the number of deaths registered in that Presidency was 105,175, and the ratio of deaths to population 43·3 per mille. He observes that a glance at the return will show that it was in the famine tracts only that the mortality was inordinately high. Thus, in Nellore the ratio of deaths was 64·1 per mille, in Madras 132·6, Chingleput 55·7, Kurnool 65·6, Cuddapah 101·5, Bellary 93·3, North Arcot 74·2, and Salem 63·5. The mean ratio of mortality for these districts in February was 81·3, while in the remaining thirteen districts it was only 23·9 per 1,000. It will be seen that even so early as February the death-rate had nearly quadrupled in the famine districts of Madras. Dr. Cornish justly remarks, "facts like these may be allowed to tell their *own* tale as to the influence of bad and insufficient food in the production of mortality, and in estimating the effects of the scarcity on the condition of the people they cannot be put aside as of no value."

IN THE same report Dr. Cornish says:

"Nearly one-half of the total mortality (51,103 deaths) is registered under the head of "Cholera." How much of this was due to cholera, and how much to bowel disorders connected with starvation, is not known; but it is significant that the eight famine districts account for 38,585 of the 51,103 deaths, stated to be due to cholera, and the inference is plain that, if cholera caused all these deaths, want and privation must be very powerful predisposing influences in preparing the way for epidemic cholera."

What! not Dr. Payne's foul tanks?

WE REPRODUCE the following remarkable observations of Dr. Pettenkoffer on the water theory of cholera:

"That the use of pure drinking water does not *per se* protect from an attack of cholera, if those exposed to it remain on a cholera soil, has been frequently observed in India, as the cases which Blanc had before him show. One, which is stated with experimental exactness, I have given in my *Researches on Cholera in Malta and Goso*. The Governor of Malta at that time, Sir Patrick Grant, commanded, at an earlier period in India, in Bangalore, and as I took the opportunity of remarking to him that I was opposed to the view of his fellowcountrymen who over-estimated the influence of drinking water upon cholera epidemics, he replied that from his own experience in India he had come to be of the same opinion. And he then made the following observation to me:—Bangalore is a great depot for troops in Mysore, South India, and the movement of troops between Bangalore and Madras was much dreaded at certain times, especially since the cholera was epidemic in a river valley through which the route lay. At such times the march of the troops through the pass was avoided as far as possible, but it happened, at the unhealthy period it was necessary to send on one occasion 400 men from Bangalore to Madras. At that time there was no rail-road in this part of India, and the length of the valley was too great to permit of its being passed through without halting. At that time the theory of the danger of drinking water had been transplanted from England to India, and was generally accepted. Sir Patrick Grant determined that cost what it might, he would make the unavoidable contiogency of this movement of troops the subject of a decisive experiment, and see whether he could not with aid of pure drinking water transport his troops without injury over this poisonous valley. Strict orders were given that when the troops arrived at this valley they should avoid all intercourse with the inhabitants and their dwellings, and that, with exception of the air, they should take nothing in the district, and especially no water, a sufficient supply of which was brought from healthy districts. Sir Patrick Grant assured me he was satisfied that strict attention was paid to his order in every respect. He could pledge himself for the conscientiousness and honour of the officers he had selected for this march, who were thoroughly made to understand a highly important point was being worked out, the conclusion drawn from which might be of the greatest value, not for the India army alone, but for mankind generally. The result however of this test in the valley of Palar was quite in accordance with previous experience in regard to cholera, for in the march to Madras he lost eighty men from the disease. From this moment Sir Patrick Grant ceased to be an adherent of the drinking water theory."

And yet Dr. Coates stoutly maintained the other day that good drinking water is a protection against cholera.

THE CARE with which our laws are made is best illustrated by the present condition of the Bombay Municipality. The Advocate General of Bombay pronounces the corporation to be defunct because the elections were illegal, the law being as follows:

"The said 64 persons shall be rate-payers, resident in the City of Bombay, who have attained the age of 25 years, and who shall have severally paid, before some day to be declared by notice in the *Government Gazette* by the Governor in Council, the following Municipal rates for the year next preceding the election, *viz*, the House rate and the Police and Lighting rates: Provided that Fellows of the University of Bombay shall be deemed qualified to be appointed Members of the Corporation in any of the ways hereinafter provided, notwithstanding that they may not be qualified as aforesaid."

The *Times of India* thus remarks on the above:

"It was doubtless the intention of the framers of the Act that the payment of the sum of Rs 50 per annum for any one of these rates should qualify a person for the Corporation, but by the insertion of the word "and," instead of "or," the whole sense of the section is altered; as it stands at present nobody is eligible unless he shall have paid all three rates during the year preceding election. There are not more than 500 people in Bombay who pay all three rates, so that if the section were allowed to remain unamended, the representative principle given to the City by the Act of 1872 would be confined to these 500 fortunate individuals. The election of the majority of the gentlemen who were returned in July 1875 was really illegal, as but few of them possessed the extraordinary qualification required under this section. Some months since the Town Council drew the attention of Government to this flaw, but for some reason or other no attention was paid to their representation at the time, and yesterday (July. 25) the Municipal Commissioner after consulting the Advocate General decided to postpone the elections until the Act could be amended.'

It is stated that the law will be at once amended and that a Bill of Indemnity will be passed with regard to the past. We have referred to the Calcutta Act and are glad to find that there is no such hitch in it. It says that any person paying any of the rates or taxes of the required amount is eligible to election.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. Gaythorne Hardy, in answering the other day a question by Sir Henry Havelock, said that the India and War Offices had been consulting on the formation of an army reserve for India; and he expressed his belief that before long this difficult problem would be solved satisfactorily. The happy result may be looked for about the time that the financial condition of India admits of the abolition of cotton duties. So the army charges will be increased in order to meet the exigencies of England's policy in Europe.

MR. WARD HUNT, First Lord of the Admiralty, is dead. We take from *Men of Time* the following particulars about him:

"Hunt, the Right Hon. George Ward M.P., only surviving son of the late Rev. George Hunt, of Buckhurst Berkshire, and Wadenhoe House, Oundle, Northamptonshire, by Emma, daughter of Mr. Samuel Gardiner, of Combe Lodge, Oxfordshire, was born at Buckhurst July ..., 1825, and educated at Eton and at Christ Church, Oxford, (B.A., 1848; M.P., 1851; Hon. D.C.L., 1870). Mr. Hunt was called to the bar in 1851, and went the Oxford circuit, but he relinquished practice before entering Parliament. In 1852 and 1857 he unsuccessfully contested the borough of Northampton in the Conservative interest, but in December, 1857, on the death of Mr. Augustus Stafford, he was returned for the northern division of the country of Northampton, which he has represented ever since. Always an active and business member of the House of Commons, Mr. Hunt took, in 1866, a very prominent position by introducing a bill for dealing with the cattle plague, and by pressing it on with indomitable energy, *pari passu* with the measure of the Government. On the occasion of Lord Derby coming to power in June, 1866, Mr. Hunt was nominated Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and he was Chancellor of the Exchequer from February to December, 1868. He was sworn of the Privy Council on being appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. In February, 1874, when Mr. Disraeli formed his Cabinet, Mr. Hunt was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty. Mr. Hunt is a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire, and was elected Chairman of Quarter Sessions for that county in April, 1866. He married in 1857, Alice, third daughter of the Right Rev. Robert Eden Bishop of Moray and Ross."

TUESDAY, 31ST JULY.

IT IS SAID that owing to the outbreak of hostilities between Turkey and Russia great excitement prevails amongst some of the frontier Muhammadan tribes. It is expected that "flags of rebellion and disturbance will be set up against Russia in the countries. The flags of Eshan Munsur are of black, green and red colours; and the Kirghizes kiss them and touch them with their eyes and weep."

WE ARE TOLD that the customs revenue of Kabul has fallen from 12 to 7 lakhs owing to the stoppage of trade to and from Central Asia. The Amir has consequently imposed heavier taxes on merchandise than formerly.

WE UNDERSTAND that Mr. Ellis, Assistant Conservator, Multan Sub-Division, has been directed to proceed to Simla in order to take up the work connected with the water supply catchment area and the Municipal Forests in supersession of the proposal to depute for that purpose Mr. Wild, who is shortly expected from Burmah.

MAJOR SANDEMAN arrived at Zehri (*en route* to the Camp of the Khan of Khelat) on the 11th instant where he was received with all possible cordiality and respect by the Jalawan Chiefs, who had assembled to meet him.

BETWEEN THE 17th and 20th of May last 10 caravans consisting of indigo, silken goods, madder, fruits and other miscellaneous articles, valued at Rs. 3,835 passed through the Bolan Pass from Candahar and Shikarpore, in Sind. The total value of the caravans which have used the Pass from the 1st January to 20th May now amounts to Rs. 5,53,200, the custom dues realized being Rs. 13,808.

IT IS COMMONLY reported that Mir Akhar who sometime ago incurred the displeasure of the Ameer of Kabul has at last paid in the fine demanded of him viz, 30,000, Rs.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Government of India has conveyed intimation of probable grain requirements of famine districts to the Government of the Straits Settlements and also to Saigon and Bangkok. It is believed that large shipments may be obtained from those countries in case of need.

WE ARE sorry to learn that Col. Robinson, Director General of Telegraphs, died on his way home.

WE ARE informed that the Government of India has under consideration in the Public Works Department a project for more united action and more effectual utilization of Stock between the several Railway companies to facilitate importation of grain into famine districts. Such a measure cannot be adopted too soon.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST AUGUST.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Bill passed by the Government of Bombay to prevent the practice of inoculation and to make the vaccination of children in the city of Bombay compulsory has received the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council.

WE ARE informed that certain rayats of the Kinara Collectorate recently made a representation to the Secretary of State complaining of the application of the Survey system to that District. The question involved had been the subject of a suit called up from the District to the Bombay High Court, when the right of Government to introduce the revised assessment was established by a judgment of the Chief Justice in which Mr. Justice West concurred. In view of these circumstances the Secretary of State has declined to interfere in the matter.

WE HEAR that the question as to the future policy to be adopted in regard to the cultivation of Cinchona is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Secretary of State has given his formal approval to the reductions which have been effected in the establishments and changes of the Ajmere Commission. The financial result attained by these arrangements is an immediate diminution of expenditure to the extent of Rs. 40,000 a year, the ultimate diminution is estimated at Rs. 57,000 per annum.

AN INTERESTING account of the march of the company of Sappers and Miners lately arrived in Quetta has been received from Captain North who commanded it. They marched from British territory *via* the Bergti Hills to Dadur at the foot of the Bolan Pass, and thence *via* the Bolan to Quetta. Though the march was made at a hot season, Captain North reports that he met with "nothing unbearable in the way of heat," and that some of the nights were quite pleasant. The men met with no difficulties of any kind; and the only slight inconvenience experienced was at Dingan, where they had to depend on the water brought by the camels. The reason of this inconvenience was simply that it had not been thought that it would be necessary to halt the men at Dingan; and Major Sandeman reports that the march can easily be so arranged that halts shall only be made at places where grass, wood, and water are in abundance. Captain North says, "we have met with every possible assistance from the different tribes on the way and are charmed with them; their hearty ways are refreshing":—and again, "we shall have a lively recollection of the cordial reception, and hearty assistance we have met from the different tribes whose territories we have passed through."

THE FOLLOWING telegram has been received from London:

London, July 27.—The Royal Warrant for promotion and retirement in the Army has been issued in conformity with the Report of the Royal Commission, with modifica-

tion in favour of the old Purchase Officer. It provides for compulsory retirement in future of Generals at the age of 70, Colonels at the age of 55, and Captains after 23 years' service, diminishing to 20 years in 1881. The Purchase Captains are exempt, but ineligible for regimental promotion after 28 years' service, diminishing to 25 years in 1881. The Liberal pensions, or commuted sums, are offered to induce voluntary retirement. The connection between the British and the Indian Staff Corps is to be maintained, but eventually promotion will be separate. The cost will be 600,000 pounds annually for the first five years, whereof India pays 200,000. So the Indian tax-payer is again sacrificed. If the Indian Army had not been amalgamated with the English army, there would not have been this fresh burden laid upon India.

THURSDAY 2ND AUGUST.

THE DECENTRALIZATION scheme has imposed serious responsibilities upon the local Governments. The Government of Bengal we hear contemplates a general revision of the judicial and executive establishments in order to make the two ends meet.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. The charge of defamation against the Editor of the *Times of India* has been withdrawn by Mr. Crawford, the complainant.

THE NEW railway station at York is said to be the largest in the world. The length of the platform is 1,500ft., while the covered portion of the station is in length 800ft, and in breadth 234ft. The height is about 50ft. The superficial area of the platform at York is 171,951 feet, and that at St. Pancras, London, 165,360 feet.

WE HAVE RECEIVED several letters from the teachers of aided schools urging their claims to consideration in connection with the proposed scheme for the improvement of the position and prospects of the teachers of Government schools. We would advise them to submit a petition to Government on the subject.

WE ARE GLAD to learn from the *Behar Herald* that the project of the Gya Railway bids fair to be a *fait accompli*. It is stated that measurement has been commenced and that Bankipore will be the point of junction between the East India Railway and the Gya Railway.

THE SAME PAPER states that there will be shortly a conference between the officers of the Opium Agencies at Benares and Patna, on the subject of Opium cultivation and manufacture.

A LARGE AND INFLUENTIAL meeting was held at Bankipore on the Civil Service question. The local paper says, "the spacious upper hall of the College and the side rooms were filled to suffocation, and many had to go back disappointed for want of space. The meeting was very orderly and there was a perfect stillness when the speeches were made and the different resolutions moved." The Calcutta memorial was adopted.

WE LEARN from the *East* that Kumar Rajendro Narayan Chowdry of Bhowal has made a donation of Rs. 10,000 for a ghat to be built in front of the Northbrook Hall.

IT IS STATED that the total number of persons killed between 1852-77 through war has reached no less than 1,948,000 and the expense incurred £2,413,000,000.

FRIDAY, 3RD AUGUST.

PROFESSOR TYNDALL, lecturing on germs, remarked that in the whole course of his investigations not one shadow of evidence had been obtained in support of the theory of spontaneous generation. He had come to the conclusion that in the method of nature life was always an emanation of antecedent life.

PUNCH pays the following tribute to the memory of Miss Mary Carpenter:

MARY CARPENTER.

Born, April 3, 1807 Died, June 14, 1877.

Not on the heights of England's proud estate,
Where its spoilt children keep their giddy round,
This woman learned to weigh man and man's fate,
Studied life's lessons and life's labor found.
But in a frugal, pure, and peaceful home,
A place of sober learning learnt to see,
Through faith and trust in God's good time to come,
That where ill is, good may, and will, yet be,
Her parent' help, her sisters' brothers' guide,
She grew as high of heart, as mild of mood;
With power o'er youth's rebelliousness and pride,
As one that from her own youth up was good.
And early fixed her mind, and chose her part,
To work in the high faith which few can feed.
That there's a spring of good in every heart,
So you have love its fountain to unseal.
This faith it was that marked a course for her,
And braced her for its trouble and its toil,
Cheered her' gainst proofs how much the best may err
And kept her pure as snow from taint or soil.
Out of the scaffold's shaddow and the dark,
Of lives from youth—up weaned of light and air,
She gathered sinking souls into her Ark
Of love that rode the Deluge of Despair.
Twas she first drew our city waifs and stray,
Within the tending of the Christian fold,
With eyes of love for the averted gaze
Of a world prompt to scourge and shrill to scold,
True seeds she sowed—in season mattered not,
Or out— for good all seasons are the same
Sprang new appliances, of love begot,
Lest lives to save, and wanderers reclaim.
Nor at home only; when her hair was white,
She crossed the sea, on India to bestow
The love that England prized at length aright,
Following lead she was the first to show.
Not from far Pisgah only did she view
The Promised Land, but lived its soil to tread;
And dies bequeathing work for us to do,
While praise and blessing crown her reverend head!

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA notifies that His Excellency Sir Richard Temple, Bart, K. C. S. I. has been permitted to resign the Bengal Civil Service, with effect from the 1st May last. This means that Sir Richard Temple will not be required to make the annual contribution to the Civil Fund, but will enjoy the annuity.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE has a caustic article upon Holy Russia. It thus commences: "Russia whether she fights or diplomatises always does so under the shadow of the Cross. From the days of that Catherine whom Lord Byron styled with more poetical license than politeness, the greatest of sovereigns and worse, the Deity has always been invoked in all Russian proclamations, and the name of God bracketed with that of the Muscovite ruler for the time being. Providence, it has been said, has been generally on the side of Might, in all human struggles, and it may not be blasphemous perhaps to add that, the deeper insight which science gives us into the secrets of nature, strengthens the theory, that the paramount power which rules the Universe favours the strong, rather than the weak. The belief that Heaven takes part with the Emperor when he goes to war, has been a belief accepted with child-like faith by the Russian peasant, who asks no questions on the matter, but throws his copeck, as he is told to do, into the treasury to aid the war. The power which this simplicity of belief gives to an Autocrat, like the Emperor of all the Russias, is incalculable, and is of course, one of the most powerful levers in the Imperial Machine." Quite so. The Czar does not take the name of God in vain.

IN NOTICING the Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the question of village drainage in Bengal and upholding Raja Degumber Mitter's theory the *Englishman en passant* remarks:

"We have had it proved in many cases lately in Calcutta that outbreaks of cholera are directly caused by drinking filthy water from tanks; but because outbreaks of cholera occur in places where there are no filthy tanks to drink from, does that in any way disprove the fact that drinking filthy water is one of the principal causes of the generation of cholera?

The *Englishman* has been evidently shifting ground with respect to Dr. Payne's theory of cholera in tanks. Our contemporary now says that the *drinking* of the water of foul tanks generates cholera, whereas Dr. Payne holds that the presence of the water or washing in it is enough to produce the disease. But it is *not* a fact that the people *drink* the water of these "filthy tanks." Besides, cholera prevails at certain seasons, and does the "foul tank" become cholera-poison at those seasons and not at other seasons?

THE RANGOON CORRESPONDENT of the above paper writes that the Burmese are complaining of increased municipal taxation, which it is said has had the effect of driving many of the poorer classes beyond Municipal limits. So municipal taxation presses everywhere.

THE PEOPLE OF MADRAS are groaning under municipal taxation. They have resolved to call a public meeting to protest against the 10 per cent. house-rate. The imposition of the maximum rate at the present time is to say the least most impolitic.

SATURDAY, 4TH AUGUST.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Indian Charivari* is to hand. The cartoon representing Turkey looking askance at the British Lion recumbent for aid is telling. General Lumsden is the subject of the album portrait. Our contemporary is as usual full of bile against the Bengali. Need we assure him that our countrymen will survive it.

AT LAST THURSDAY'S sitting of the Vice-Regal Legislative Council the passing of the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill was postponed for the consideration of a technical question raised by Mr. Hope as to the relevancy of certain legislative Acts mentioned in the Bill. Some minor business was transacted and the Council adjourned till next Thursday.

BABU KUNJOLAL BANERJEA, 2nd Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, delivered the other day an important judgment in a Railway case. The *Indian Daily News*, while admitting that "the verdict commends itself to the unprejudiced mind; it could hardly have been otherwise had the case been adjudicated in the High Court," finds fault with the manner of the judgment. It is hard to please all.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a circular of a new institution called the Hindu Asram and Calcutta Serai. It has been established near the Sealdah Station. A respectable establishment of this kind is a *desideratum* in Calcutta.

THE HEALTH-OFFICER'S mortuary return for the week ending the 28th ultimo gives a total of 219 deaths or 26.6 per thousand of the population. The deaths were from fever 77, diarrhœa and dysenty 35, cholera 3 and tetanus 20.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals: 1. Turkishtan 2 Vols. By Eugene Schuylar. Simpson Low & Co. London. 2. Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, from November 1876 to April 1877. 3. Thousand and one Nights Part I.—translated into Bengali by Sutya Churn Gupta and published by Doorga Churn Gupta. 4. Rojoni—a tale, by Bunkim Chunder Chatterjea. 5. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Vol. XLVI, Part II. No. 2, 1877. 6. Report on the Working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces for 1876-77. 7. The Influence on the Mind of the Study and Practice of Law, by H. R. Fink. 8. Forty-Sixth Report of the District Charitable Society. 9. How to get thin or Banting in India, by J. Duke, Civil Surgeon, Dera Ismail Khan. 10. Nisitha Himadri Sikhara—a poem in Bengali, by Jogendra Nath Sen. 11. Srimutbhagbat. No. 1, with original text, commentary and translation, published from the Puran Rukhini Subha, by Rohiny Nundon Sircar. 12. A French Map of Gulderland from Messrs. S. King & Co. London. 13. Bharuti, a Monthly Critical Journal, Vol. I. No. 1. Edited by Dijendra Nath Tagore. 14. Daniell's Miscellaneous Book Catalogue, Parts I. and II. for 1876 and 1877. 15. Memorial of the Lakhirajdars of Kamrup.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, July 30.—The Imperial Austrian Ministry and the Hungarian Ministry have summoned a Cabinet Council to deliberate as to the advisability of a partial mobilisation of forces. It is semi-officially stated that Austria has resolved on noncompliance with the new order of things created without her co-operation. The Roumanians have occupied Nicopolis. Turkish cavalry reconnoitred six miles beyond Russo-Turkish frontier, whereupon a strong detachment of Russian troops attacked them. A storm stopped the fighting, the result of which was indecisive, both sides maintaining their positions. The statement that Midhat Pacha had been recalled is premature. He has, however, gone on a visit to Vienna and Paris, on behalf of the Porte. Reouf Pachatelegraphs that the Russians are retreating from Yeni Saghra, and have massacred 346 villagers. Mr. Ward Hunt is dead.

30th.—The strike in America is virtually over, and quiet prevails every where. The defeat of Suleiman Pacha at Karabunar is unconfirmed. Communication on the Philippopolis and Adrianople line of railway has been restored. The Russian advance on Adrianople is apparently arrested. A Turkish official despatch states that the Turks under Osman Pacha have occupied Lovatz driving out the Russians.

31st.—A letter from the Sheik-ul-Islam has been read in all the Turkish mosques, enjoining calmness and moderation, and avoidence of any act of hostility against the Christians.

31st.—In the Commons, Mr. Bourke replying to a question said that Mr. Wade had reported on the Chefoo convention, but that it was impossible to present the report until the Indian Government has perused it. In reply to a further question, Mr. Bourke said that the Russian Government had not answered the Earl of Derby's despatch relative to the Russian atrocities. The Under-Secretary of State for India said the charge to India on account of the Army promotion warrant would be £50,000 annually. A fresh disorderly scene took place in the Commons last night. It is reported that the Grand Duke Alexander has routed the army under Ahmed Eyoub Pacha near Rustchk.

1st.—Osman Pacha telegraphs that he fought all Monday at Plevna against 60,000 Russians with cavalry and fifty guns. A renewal of the battle was expected on Tuesday. In the House of Commons, Sir Stafford Northcote said that as a special vote in account of the despatch of troops to the Mediterranean was not required, to was needless it further explains the views and intentions of Government before the prorogation of Parliament.

1ts.—The Irish faction in the House of Commons continuing to obstruct the progress of the South African bill, Goverment has declared that it will not suspend the sitting of the House until the bill has passed through committee, The House accordingly sat all last night, and is still sitting. The *Times* report that Ahmed Eyoub Pacha's army has beed defeated is wholly without foundation. The Russians are advancing from Ardahan. The advanced guard has arrived near Pannek. The Russian centre has reconnoitred. Skirmishes with the vanguard of Ahmed Muktar's force. At a Cabinet Council held yesterday, it was resolved by the Austro-Hungarian Government to mobilise four divisions of the Austrian army. The Turkish Foreign Minister has resigned. Server Pacha is appointed his successor.

2nd.—A Russian official despatch admits that the Russians were repulsed at Plevna on Monday. Osman Pacha telegraphs that the Russians on Tuesday resumed the offensive along the Turkish lines and redoubts east of Plevna, and that they were completely defeated everywhere, with a loss of 8000, killed and 24,000 wounded, and retreated to their camp. According to unofficial Russian accounts of Tuesday's battle, the Russians defeat is admitted after desperate fighting against superior numbers. Despatches from special correspondents state that the Turkish loss was relatively small, because they were acting on the defensive. The House of Commons has passed South African Bill through Committee after 24 hours' continous sitting.

2nd.—The House of Commons passed the third reading of the East India Loan Bill. The Select Committee to consider the claims of Ordnance Majors has been adjourned until next Session for further evidence. Lord Salisbury said that both the Indian Council and himself were agreed that Ordnance Officers had no substantial claim for arrears. The British Government is unable to dispose of the Revenues of India without the consent of the Indian Council. The demands are doubtless natural from the Officers point of view, but as the guardians of the Indian treasury the Government cannot grant them. The Imperial not the Indian Revenues are chargeable,

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2nd.—The Turks are advancing under Mehemed Pacha from Osmanbazar towards Plevna to join Osman Pacha. The Russian position at Tirnova is seriously menaced. acording to a Turkish official depatch, the Russians attacked Rouf Pacha at Eskisaghra on the 31st, when the Turks retreated to Karabunar. Suleiman Pacha, however, on the same day defeated the Russians, and recaptured Eskisaghra, and took several guns.

3rd.—Russian reinforcements are being hurried across the Danube and passenger traffic on the Railway has been stopped. Strenuous efforts are being made to retrieve the Russian disaster at Plevna. The Czar and the Grand Duke Nicholas are at Biela. Suleiman Pacha is actively pressing the Russians. Mehemed Pacha is operating against the Russians near Rasgrad In the Commons last night, the Chancellor of the Exchequer replying to a question said that arrangements would be shortly completed for a tribunal of arbitration between the war and India offices to settle disputed accounts and the basis of Home charges on account of British troops serving in India.

4th.—Advices from Armenia state that General Melikoff, having, been reinforced by fourteen battalions and three batteries of artillery, has resumed the offensive. There has been already two days' continuous fighing, the result of which is unknown.

IN OUR last we wrote that "the *Englishman* has succeeded of late in producing a close imitation of the style of the Health-Officer in its leaders on Municipal politics." We are glad to receive the assurance that Dr. Payne has had nothing to do with the articles in question.

WE THANK our Krishnaghur correspondent for the papers connected with a certain case decided by the Deputy Magistrate of Ranaghat. We are sorry to say that press of matter compels us to defer the notice of the case till next week.

WE HAVE received several letters enquiring about the upshot of the investigation into the alleged Lokenathpore murder case. We were promised the official report nearly a month ago, but where is it? We hope the matter will not be hushed up.

OUR CONTEMPORARY of the *Indian Daily News* calls the Municipal Market at Jaun Bazar the greatest nuisance in the Town and calls upon the Health-Officer to have it removed summarily. We do hope that the Health-Officer will pay prompt attention to our contemporary's recommendation. The writer wishes to know who could have been the wiseacres that fixed the heart of Chowringhee for this unmitigated nuisance. We can tell him that Mr. James Wilson of British Indian Street was one of the wise men of the East, who determined upon the situation.

WE ARE exceedingly glad to learn that Mr. H. B. Phear, who lately retired from the Bengal High Court, has been appointed Chief Justice of Ceylon. Unworthy official jealousy more than once blocked the way to his promotion in India, but it gives us great pleasure to notice that his talents will not be allowed to rust in strenuous idleness in England.

NOTICE.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, *Bow-Bazar Street.*)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on *Thursday* the *9th August* next, at 7½ P. M.

Subject: The Double Refraction of Light.

Rules of Admission to Lectures of the Association.

Admission invariably by Ticket.

Donors admitted free to all Lectures. Subscribers prepaying for the year or the month admitted free to all the lectures of the year or the month respectively.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—*Annas* 8 for a single Lecture: Or Rs. 3 in advance for 12 consecutive Lectures.

Tickets to be had of the clerk at the office of the Association between 10½ A. M., and 4½ P. M., (Sundays excepted), and on the day of Lecture up to the time of Lecture.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M D.
Honorary Secretary.

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THE EPIDEMIC FEVER.

SINCE 1864 the Government of Bengal has been making enquiries into the causes of the epidemic fever in Bengal, and it is melancholy to observe that the question remains almost where it was before. The history of the investigation and action by Government on the subject is a cruel commentary on its common sense and humanity. Indeed, if it had shewn sufficient common sense in the matter, we are satisfied that the question would not have risen to the dignity of a public scandal. At first the doctors attributed the fever to jungles, they saw it lurking in plantain trees, in mangoe topes, in bamboo clumps, in under-wood, and they made a raid against all sorts of trees and under-shrubs. But the fever did not abate; on the contrary the more actively the trees were cut down, the more furiously it raged. The poor people ruined in health were also ruined in pocket by the indiscriminate slaughter of fruit trees, which yielded them a good income. Then came the travelling theory; it assumed that the fever jumped from one place to another following a certain law of contagion; it had its day, but the fever did not abate. Then it was said that it was the swamps of the rice fields, which gave birth to the fever, but Sir George Campbell wrote that "in these reeking swamps the human race seems to have multiplied to a greater extent than anywhere in India, perhaps in the world." Next, it was urged that the people were under-fed, and therefore they fell victims to the fever, but it was proved that they were now better fed than before, and yet the fever had not prevailed abnormally before, and that all over the province they took the same kind of food, and yet the fever found its nest in particular districts and in particular localities in those districts. Lastly it was said that the want of due attention to sanitary laws on the part of the people had aggravated the fever, but this was no new feature in their habits. Thus one theory after another was broached and exploded. Raja Degumber Mitter, led by his common sense, urged upon the Epidemic Commission of 1864, of which he was a member, that there was something in the soil, which gave rise and imparted a virulent character to the fever. His theory as explained in his pamphlet was this—"firstly, that the type of fever met with in the epidemic districts is solely due to *something* in the soil—and the condition most favourable to the development of *that something*, is excessive or abnormal humidity of the subsoil; secondly, that when such a state of the subsoil is not the normal condition (in some places excessive humidity is natural, owing to the extreme porousness or some other peculiarity of the soil, as in the case of almost the whole district of Rungpore, where consequently this type of fever rages endemically) the cause which operates most powerfully to produce that condition is impeded drainage; and thirdly, that it is the inordinate humidity of the sub-soil of towns and villages, and not of the paddy-fields and jullas, which contributes to the outbreak of the fever with epidemic intensity." The medical members of the Commission at last accepted this theory, and though it would have been too much for them to abandon their sanitary fancies, they reported that subsoil humidity was the primary cause of the disease. The question was how was this sub-soil humidity produced? Raja Degumber said, *by obstruction to drainage however caused.* He did not say that it was only roads and railways, which had caused the obstructions, but the opponents of his theory spread the notion that according to him the roads and railways were the sole cause of the fever, and so they pooh-poohed the idea. The only notice which the Government took of Raja Degumber's theory as expounded in the appendix to the Report of the Epidemic Commission of 1864 was the deputation of an Engineer officer to report on the alleged obstructions to the drainage of the line of villages from Ichapore to Chocda offered by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and the latter reportedthat the Railway did not obstruct the drainage of the villages under notice. If he had used his eyes, he could have at once seen that the Railway passing between these villages could not but intercept their drainage, but the Government was satisfied with his dictum. The next stage of the question, as we have observed above, was this—both the doctors and engineers admitted that excessive moisture was the cause of the disease, but that it was to be found in the paddy fields and *beels*. Mr. Adley, an Engineer officer, was deputed to report, and he gave his verdict against the paddy-fields and *beels*, and a Bill was actually proposed in the Bengal Council to cut up the *beels*! Raja Degumber then happened to be a member of the Council, and he clearly proved that the idea was an egregious mistake. t was owing to his strong opposition that the Bill was not made general but confined to the Dankuni *julla* as a tentative measure. The reclamation of the julla has cost the Government about 4 lacs of rupees, to be recouped by the landholders, but the operations we believe have satisfied it that the paddy fields and beels had nothing to do with the fever, and so this scheme of drainage was not extended. We have brought down the history of the measures taken byGovernment on the subjectfrom the days of Sir Cecil Beadon to those of Sir William Grey. Then came Sir George Campbell. He first gave his adherence to the travelling theory, but he was subsequently converted to Raja Degumber's, and as a practical proof of his conviction he introduced a provision in the Embankment Bill then before the Bengal Council, empowering the District Collectors for the first time to remove "any obstructions of any kind which interfere with the general drainage of any tract of land" (*vide* Section 2, Act VI. of 1873.) This power of the Collector was also extended to the removal of any obstruction which might have been offered by a Railroad. (*vide* Section 19.) The Board of Revenue, in their circular, No. 3, dated May 1875, thus noticed the section and drew the special attention of the Collectors to it: "The Act also contains a new feature in bringing under the control of the Collector, the management, improvement and alteration of water-courses in certain cases; and as there is reason to suppose that much of the unhealthiness of the portions of the country is directly due to drainage the attention of Collectors is specially drawn to the power for good in this respect now placed in their hands." We had hoped that the question was now set at rest. But no, it was reopened with the advent of Sir Richard Temple. Sir Richard again smelt the fever in the "reeking swamps," and appointed Dr. Wilkie to report on the subject. The learned doctor corroborated Raja Degumber's theory, but supplemented the local causes by propounding a general cause, which he supposed was the geological change going on in the Gangetic valley. Sir Richard still called for enquiry, and deputed Dr. Pilcher to report on the villages of Mahesh and Rishra in the Sub-Division of Serampore and on Shibpore in the Municipality of Howrah, to which we had called attention in these columns. Dr. Pilcher's report was entirely in favour of Rajah Degumbur's theory. Still Sir Richard did not like to move, and on the eve of his retirement from Bengal minuted for the appointment of a Commission; it was Mr. Eden's duty to give effect to this minute, and so he nominated a Committee consisting of Dr. Lethbridge, Sanitary Commissioner, as President, the Magistrates of Hooghly and Howrah, the district engineer of Hooghly, the Civil Surgeons of Hooghly and Howrah, a Deputy Magistrate, an Assistant Surgeon, and a zemindar. After the first meeting of the Committee the Sanitary Commissioner reported to Government the "results of his unprejudiced study of the question." He wrote:

"The Government may be surprised to learn that Rajah Digambur Mitter and those with him who have helped for some years to keep this question before the public, are opposed to any elaborate and lengthened investigation, believing as they do that their view has already been proved to be the right one, and therefore according to them it only remains for the Government to take practical action in the matter. What is meant by this is clearly stated in Rajah Digambar Mitter's pamphlet, page 5, of which the following is an extract:—

"I have already alluded to the provision in the Embankment Act of 1873 for the preservation of drainage channels, and the circular of the Board of Revenue on the subject. But they are, I humbly submit, not sufficient. There ought to be a regular organised agency for the execution of this work, so essential to the health of the people. What is required is not large expenditure of money, but a careful, constant, and minute attention to the drainage of the villages; and this attention cannot be secured unless there be an agency whose duty it shall be to report every obstruction to drainage, and to remove it wherever and whenever it may occur. This work I think ought to be performed by the Municipal, the Road Cess, and the Embankment Establishments acting under the orders of some central authority, be it the Sanitary Commissioner or the Superintending Engineer. The Work after all belongs to the domain of what is called sanitary engineering, and if the Government through the Public Works Department should make it a rule that the proper drainage of villages shall be maintained by the agencies I suggest, and should now and then make small contributions in aid of local fundsfor the execution of necessary improvements for efficient drainage, the object aimed at will, I am confident, be attained."

Now, we do not know whether Raja Degumber Mitter was opposed to further investigation, but *we* did pronounce our opinion strongly against further waste of time for the simiple reason that his theory had been reported upon off and on during the last thirteen years, and after all that could be urged against it, it had been finally accepted. Even Dr. Lethbridge admitted this fact in his letter to Government. He says, "it was shown by the Epidemic Commission of 1864 that the fever then

prevailing was of malarious origin, and that the chief factor in its developement was unusual dampness of the subsoil. With one or two exceptions all subsequent enquirers (and they have been many) are of the same opinion, and for all practical purposes it may be accepted that these two points are now established. It is when we come to account for the unusual dampness that we find a very considerable difference of opinion." Dr. Lethbridge then goes on:

While I refrain from discussing the question here, I ought to mention that I cannot altogether accept Rajah Digambur Mitter's view of the dampness of the village sub-soil itself being the sole and only cause of the fever, or that this has altogether been brought about by roads and railways; yet I am so profoundly impressed with the evidence that goes to show that long continued dampness, at a time of the year when the soil ought to be rapidly drained of its excess of moisture, is the chief cause of unhealthiness, that I accept the Rajah's recommendations for facilitating the drainage of villages as being worthy of serious consideration,"

Now, there are two statements in the above to which we wish to call attention: *Firstly*, that subsoil humidity is not the sole cause of the fever; Dr. Lethbridge does not give a single case to prove his position: *Secondly*, that this dampness has been "altogether brought about by roads and railways;" Rajah Digambur has nowhere said that the "roads and railways" have been the sole obstructions to drainage; he holds that obstructed drainage *however* brought about is the cause of dampness, and this position no one has refuted. Dr. Lethbridge adds:

"It cannot be denied that up to the present there has been no organised agency for facilitating drainage, or for restraining those who from ignorance or self-interest, deliberately obstruct it.

If the committee, while enquiring into the causes of the excessive dampness, could at the same time suggest reasonable means for removing it by utilizing the natural drainage of the country, they would, even if they failed to elucidate the cause, confer a tangible and lasting benefit on the inhabitants of the province.

I venture to think that the Bengal Government has the power in its existing laws to organise a regular scheme for providing sufficient drainage without materially interfering with the cultivation of paddy, and I would gladly see the services of the committee utilized for this purpose,"

This was a sensible proposition; in fact it was exactly what we had suggested. We held that we had had enough discussion; it was time for action. But what was the reply of Government? In the first place the Government wholly misunderstands the Raja's theory, for it says that "the Raja maintains that by the construction of roads and embankments the natural drainage of the country has been obstructed, and that this is the sole and only cause of the fever." The Government here adds "embankments" to "roads," but the Raja did not confine himself to roads or embankments, he said that obstruction to drainage *however* brought about was the cause of dampness, which again was the cause of the fever. For instance the filling-up of the Railway cuttings in Bally without a sufficient outlet for water was the cause of dampness. In the second place the Government remarks, "it has been demonstrated again and again that the fever has prevailed in villages and in parts of the country with which roads and railways can have had no possible concern." But who ever said that "roads and railways" as such were responsible for the fever? Proceeding on this assumption the Government adds, "on the other hand, it has equally been shown that the Raja is right to a very great extent, and that artificial obstructions have in many cases occasioned, and have in others aggravated, the outbreak of fever. The functions of the committee, according to their original scope, would then seem to be to show categorically that in certain specified villages the theory of Raja Digamber Mitter is sound and true, while in others it has no application." So the Government suggested to the Committee as to the results it expected from their enquiries, and we are not surprised to find that they have left matters as they were. As for utilizing the services of the Committee in removing obstructions to drainage in the course of their enquiry the Government replied as follows:

The Lieutenant Governor, however is obliged to point out that this proposal is not new, and that much has already been done in the way of devising drainage schemes in the district of Hooghly and Burdwan. It is less than two years ago since the last commission, consisting of a sanitary officer and an engineor, was appointed for this purpose. General drainage works have nevertheless never been undertaken. It is only special schemes, such as the Dancoonee drainage project, that have been carried out and these have been done under special laws passed to facilitate their operation. It is not possible for Government to undertake drainage works, except at the invitation and with the co-operation and at the expense of the landholders and tenant-holders concerned.

Now, Dr. Lethbridge did not, so far as we understand his letter, ask for general drainage on a gigantic scale, but for the execution of special works, which would not have cost much money. But the expression of the Lieutenant Governor's opinion previous to the Committee's enquiry was we must candidly confess unusual, and we are not surprised to find that the Committee's report has disappointed the public. If what we hear be true, the Committee did their work in a most perfunctory manner. They made a very imperfect enquiry. The rate-payers of Bally in a memorial to the Lieutenant Governor state that the Committee called there for two hours, without giving any previous notice, and after taking a cursory glance at this ditch and that, left. They give a large body of facts shewing that the Committee's conclusions were wrong and Raja Degumber's theory right. We fear the Committee's enquiry was more or less imperfect in the other places they had visited. Strange to say as a member of the Committee, Babu Peary Mohun Mookerjea in his dissent remarks, that they would not look into other facts brought to their notice by the witnesses on the assumption that it was the wish of Government that they should not travel beyond Raja Degumber's memo, which was not comprehensive as it was simply intended to be a mere guide to the Committee. We do not believe that it was the intention of Government that a full enquiry should not be made; the object was to elicit the truth, and it was therefore their duty to receive facts wherever they could get them. No wonder that an enquiry conducted in such a spirit has proved a failure. We thank the Government for furnishing us with the papers connected with the enquiry; but where are the proceedings of the Committee and the evidence recorded by them? If we had the evidence before us, we could then judge how far the conclusions of the Committee are supported by the evidence given. Raja Degumber seems to be so confident about his facts that in justice to him a full investigation ought to have been made. If the Lieutenant Governor wishes to satisfy himself on the point, a few hours' drive with the Raja to the spots would clear up all doubts.

The only question which it strikes us has thrown a damper upon the Lieutenant-Governor is the state of his treasury. But we cannot understand why he should have allowed financial considerations to outweigh the paramount considerations of humanity. Here we have the appalling fact that hundreds and thousands are annually carried off by the fell epidemic fever, and if there is a general consensus of opinion that subsoil humidity is the cause of the disease, why waste time by wrangling? As for money, the means are ready at hand. The villages of Shibpore, Bally, and Konnagur have their own municipalities, and the improvement of drainage is a legitimate object of the municipal fund. Where there is no municipal fund the Embankment Act can be enforced. Where the obstructions have been caused by Railways or Provincial or Imperial works the Railway Companies, or the Provincial Government or the Imperial Government as the case might be should be made to undertake the work. We did not for a moment expect that a strong-minded Governor like Mr. Eden would be scared away by money considerations. Are the lives of thousands of Her Majesty's lieges to be kept in perpetual jeopardy from a nervousness about the cost of saving them? If the removal of obstruction to drainage is absolutely necessary for the sake of human life, it ought to be done, cost what it may. For the last thirteen years the Government has done very little in this direction, beyond enquiring, reporting, minuting, and resolving, and it is time that it should do something in right earnest. Would the Government have ventured to shew this culpable neglect for so many years, if the lives of the European subjects of her Majesty had been in danger? How many millions of money have been spent to make the barracks healthy for a few thousands of European soldiers, and a thousandth part of that sum would not have been required for the restoration of the salubrity of the fever-stricken villages, which were formerly the sanataria of Bengal. We beseech Mr. Eden to throw his usual spirit of earnestness into this question of life and death affecting such a large portion of the population of Bengal.

THE EAST INDIA LOAN BILL.

THERE was a good debate in the House of Commons on the second reading of the East India Loan Bill. Not that there was an elaborate discussion, or that all the speakers talked sense, but that Mr. Fawcett made an important speech and Lord George Hamilton, the Under-Secretary of State, returned a fair and creditable reply. Mr. Fawcett protested against the new loan, because it would be so much addition to the permanent debt of India. Lord George Hamilton in his Budget speech had quoted the authority of Mr. Bagehot, late Editor of the *Economist*, for borrowing money in England for the Government of India. Mr. Fawcett said that "his Lordship had not given a correct representation of Mr. Bagehot's opinion. He observed that Mr. Bagehot's advice was that if it was necessary for the Indian Government again to come to England to borrow, they should not add to the permanent debt of India, but should obtain the money they required by the issue of certain amount of bills or temporary securities, and then if they found that the price of silver was likely to settle down these temporary securities could be withdrawn." Lord George Hamilton thus replied:

It had been stated in the *Economist* that he had not correctly represented Mr. Bagehot's view on that matter, though he believed he had done so. What Mr. Bagehot had maintained as to their bills was that, in order to avoid those extreme fluctuations in the silver market, when there was no demand for silver they should either reduce or suspend their drawings on India, issue temporary bills, and, if the demand for silver increased, draw largely on India, increase their balances here, and then take up those bills when they were redeemable, the object being to keep the price of silver as steady as possible. Under the present Bill they took power to raise the whole of that five millions by temporary bills; but, in order to show that they believed it would be necessary for the service of the year to raise two-and-a-half millions this year, they took power only to raise one-half of the five millions by increasing the Registered or Funded Debt. Last year they were extricated from their difficulty by the total failure of the European silk crop, when there was a rush for silver for China, and they were enabled to sell their bills largely; but if the Asiatic silk crop happened to fail next year they would find themselves in great difficulty again. It was, therefore, proposed to take that power of raising two-and-a-half millions as the only means by which they could temporarily get over the great difficulties which the extraordinary fluctuations in silver caused last year. The highest price at which they sold their bills last year was 1s. 10d. and 9-16ths per rupee, and the lowest price was 1s. 6¼d. per rupee, making a difference of over 4d. the rupee. The Government only asked that temporary power for raising two-and-a-half millions. He believed it to be absolutely necessary. They would not use that power unless they were obliged to do so, and they would endeavour so to increase their cash balances that they would be able to take up those bills when they became redeemable."

We think Lord George Hamilton has argued very fairly. It cannot be denied that the Government is much in the hands of the Banks regarding the supply bills. As for going to the English market we cannot understand why India should be shut out from it when other countries can go to it. We are of course opposed to the increase of the permanent debt of India, but if the debt is to be incurred, it is much better that the sanction of Parliament should be taken. No such sanction is required if the debt is raised in India. The greater the Parliamentary control over Indian finance, the better. Perhaps the only institution, which can effectually temper the despotism of the Indian Government, is the British Parliament.

Mr. Fawcett again called attention to the financial position of India. He said:

"The second part of this Bill proposed to add to the permanent Indian debt no less than £2,500,000. Now, what was the financial position of India at the present time? While there was profound peace the Government wished to take authority to borrow £3,500,000. The famine charge was put down at £2,000,000, and leaving this out of consideration for the moment, he would say the Government were going this year to take authority to raise £6,500,000. If the £2,500,000 of which he had spoken was placed in the hands of the Government, what security had we that it would not be devoted to purposes of ordinary income? He had the more reason to think this would be done because the Under-Secretary did not say a word the other day about the extraordinary low figure to which the cash balances had been reduced. They were, at least, £12 000,000 less than they were two years ago, and Lord Northbrook said they ought to be at least £1,000,000 more than they were at the present time. He contended that it would not have been necessary to come to the House for this money if Lord Salisbury had performed the promises he made to the Legislature to refuse to sanction everremunerative public works for India if they involve the country in further obligations. The second part of the Bill added £2,500,000 to the permanent debt. This was a policy fraught with the utmost peril."

Lord George Hamilton made some confessions in reply. He said, that the Duke of Argyll had sanctioned the construction of several canals and railroads, which were not remunerative, and "the works could not very well be stopped." This admission is another proof of the little care, which is taken of the interests of India by those, who sway its destinies. The haste and want of forethought, with which the public works have been multiplied, have led to the increase of the burdens, which press so much upon the people of India. It was all very well for Lord George Hamilton to say that it was the doing of the Duke of Argyll, but what satisfaction could such a statement be to the poor tax-payers of India? With regard to the cash balances Lord George Hamilton said, "their cash balances did not altogether belong to them, because they did a large banking business. It would be most unwise to keep high cash balances in India. When once they were high every conceivable demand would be made on the Government which it would be difficult to resist. No doubt they were very low, because the Government were anxious to avoid borrowing in the last financial year, and they had met a heavy famine expenditure last year out of those balances." We for one think that the normal amount of cash balances ought not to be below 12 millions. Mr. Laing, when he was the Finance Minister of India, held that it ought to be fixed at ten millions, but the expenditure has of late years so much increased that perhaps it would not be safe to bring it lower than 12 millions. In conclusion Lord George Hamilton said: "He agreed with the hon. member for Hackney as to the absolute necessity of keeping down their expenditure as much as possible. No doubt, expenditure was the great future danger of Indian finance; but as long as they had to deal with famines of such magnitude as those of the last four years, the Indian Money-market was not able to meet the increased expenditure thrown on the country. He sincerely trusted that would be the last time that he or any other Under-Secretary for India for many years to come might have to ask Parliament for power to raise a loan in this country. Lord Salisbury had resisted as long as possible all the pressure put upon him to apply to Parliament for fresh powers, and he had only asked for the sum which was absolutely necessary and which was far less than the amount that the Indian Government had wished them to borrow." If Lord George Hamilton had said that he hoped that there would be no necessity for borrowing for many years to come, it would have been satisfactory. But to say that he hoped that the Government of India would not come to the English market was to take away from it the only wholesome control exercised over it.

THE LAW OF THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

IN noticing the Public Works Cess Act, lately passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, Lord George Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for India, based his argument about the law of the Permanent Settlement upon its exposition by Sir James Stephen in the Legislative Council of India, when he was a member of it. Sir James is undoubtedly an eminent authority, and it is interesting to enquire what he said upon the subject. His speech contains conclusive answers to the arguments advanced by *Junius* in the columns of the *Englishman*. Sir James anticipated these arguments and answered them *seriatim*. He said:

"I have seen and read allegations that, as permanency can hardly be regarded as an attribute of human arrangements, and as no one generation of lawgivers can irrevocably bind another to a certain course of conduct, it is idle to object to any law on the ground that it is a violation of the pledges given at the Permanent Settlement. Who, it has been asked, was Lord Cornwallis, that he should be able, in 1793, to tie the hands of his successors in 1871, and to force them to maintain an arrangement made by him whether they think it a good one or a bad one, merely because he made it? There have been, it is alleged, in Europe and even in England, abundance of laws which have been described as irrevocable, fundamental and incapable of alteration. For instance, the Act of Union between England and Scotland assumes this character, and declares, amongst other things, that the Established Churches of England and Scotland are to be maintained inviolate; but does any one seriously believe that Parliament, if it thought fit to do so, might not reconsider the relations of Church and State both in England and in Scotland and recast those establishments according to the views of general expediency which it might entertain, or even abolish them altogether, notwithstanding the strongest expressions which were, or which could have been, introduced into the Act of Queen Anne? How can a Regulation made by the East India Company claim a degree of sanctity which does not attach to the Acts of the Parliaments of two Kingdoms, which Acts formed, so to speak, the title-deed on the faith of which each surrendered its independent existence in order to merge it in a common whole?

"As I said, I have seen these arguments used with regret, and with the more regret because they undoubtedly have a certain substratum of truth.

"With reference to the present matter, it may, I think, be affirmed with perfect truth that your Lordship and the Council have the legal power to repeal Regulation I of 1793, which embodies the Permanent Settlement, just as you have the legal power to do a vast number of other things good or bad; but whether you have the moral right to do it, and whether the particular measure now before the Council purports to do anything of the sort, are separate questions which require independent consideration.

"In considering the question of the moral right of the Government to alter the arrangements made at the Permanent Settlement, it appears to me that the leading consideration to be kept in view is as follows: We are not a representative Government. With every wish on the part of every member of the Government to use his powers for the benefit of those whose interests they affect, it is impossible not to feel at every turn how great are the differences between the governors and the governed, and how supremely important it is for all parties that, whatever else the people of the country may feel about their rulers, they should feel perfect confidence in their good faith and in their scrupulous observance of their promises. A really representative Government may deal with the pledges of their predecessors in a very different way from a Government like ours. If Parliament, representing as it does the views and feelings of the population of the United Kingdom, should see fit to re-open the question of the Scotch and English Church Establishments, it would be absurd to say that they were debarred from doing so by the Act of Queen Anne. They are themselves the representatives of the descendants of those by whom the Act of Union was passed, and they have the same moral right to undo what their predecessors did in a matter affecting the English nation for the time being, as man has to re-consider resolutions which he has made at any particular period of his life as to his own subsequent conduct, in matters in which he has entered into no contract with others. We, on the other hand, are in a position more nearly resembling that of a person who has made a contract to his release from which the consent of the other party is necessary. Those to whom we succeed, and whose policy laid the foundations of the power which we possess, deliberately gave to a large and influential class of the population over which we exercise that power, a pledge on the faith of which relations have grown up which modify the whole frame-work of society. I do not think that the bare opinion of the Government, or of the European community, that the Permanent Settlement is injurious to the prosperity of Bengal, supposing such an opinion to exist, would justify its re-consideration. Under the circumstances of the case, I think that, before they could justly set it aside, the Native community ought to be of the same opinion; and holding this view, it is almost needless to add that the arguments which go to prove our legal power to repeal it appears to me to be beside the mark. They are like arguments to show that our legal powers would extend to the enactment of laws for religious persecution or any other enormity. It is idle, and it may be mischievous and dangerous, to discuss the question whether we have the legal right to do that which a sense of honour and justice forbid us to do."

This was precisely the argument which we adduced lately in reply to *Junius*. We should, however, add that the Permanent Settlement is a contract; as the covenant was made between the State and its subjects, it was effected by a Proclamation, and if it was subsequently embodied in a Regulation or law, the character of the contract is not altered. It is certainly within the competency of the Government or the Legislature to amend or repeal a law, but it cannot set aside a contract without the consent of the other party. Sir James takes the same view.

But Sir James Stephen argues that the contract of the Permanent Settlement should not be construed literally. He says: "When I say that, in my opinion, the Permanent Settlement ought to be scrupulously observed both in letter and in spirit, I do not mean to exclude the right on the part of the Government, which is essential to the true interpretation of all such transactions, to take into consideration the gradual alteration produced by time and circumstance and the influence of surrounding facts. A great public act like the Permanent Settlement is not to be interpreted, and can never have been meant to be interpreted, merely by reference to the terms of the document in which it is contained. Its meaning must be collected from a consideration of the circumstances under which, and of the objects for which, it was made; and in considering what is, and what is not, consistent with its terms we must look at the gradual changes which have occurred in the condition of the country since it was enacted." This we submit is begging the question. A contract is contract, and although it is perfectly true that the State has the inherent right of imposing taxes, surely it cannot be reasonably contended that it should specially tax the very estates, the public demand upon which was permanently fixed. We do not say that no tax shall be imposed upon the land, but we do maintain that under the terms of the Permanent Settlement the imposition of a special tax upon permanently settled estates is *ultra vires*. Sir James Stephen proceeds: "The Act before the Council provides, in substance, that a cess of two annas an acre shall be laid upon the permanently settled lands in this province, for the purpose of providing for the following objects, Roads, Police, Education and Minor Public Works, in the North-West Provinces, and in each district of those provinces; and this is said to be a violation of the pledge that the public assessment is to be fixed for ever. It appears to me that such a contention is wholly incorrect. Those who maintain it must maintain that no tax whatever, for any purpose whatever, can under any circumstances be laid upon the produce of the lands subject to Permanent Settlement, other than the assessment fixed by the Permanent Settlement itself. I say that this is a complete mistake; that it is a proposition which would be monstrous, and fraught with disaster to the country, if it were true, but which, happily, is altogether unfounded. Of its consequences to the country, if it were true, I need not speak at any length. It would simply put a stop to all public improvement in the permanently settled districts, and keep them at that low stage in which they were at the end of the last century; unless, indeed, they were improved at the expense of other parts of the country, for improvement of all kinds involves more or less expense, which again involves taxation." But Sir James forgets that Bengal yields the largest amount in indirect taxation, and that if the Government of India would be just to her, there need be no fear of cessation of improvement.

Sir James thus construes the character of the Permanent Settlement:

"It seems to me to follow, from the authorities to which I have referred, that the Permanent Settlement was neither more nor less than the establishment of a general proprietary system, by which the property in the land was distributed between three classes of persons,—the Government, the zamindars, and the ryots. To use the terms of English law, it gave to the Government a fixed and permanent rent-charge; to the zemindars the freehold, and to the ryots interests of various kinds, which were left in a state of uncertainty at the time of the Permanent Settlement, and were afterwards defined by Act X of 1859. It appears to me to have left the whole question of taxation entirely untouched. It is essential to understand this matter clearly, as it is the point upon which the whole subject turns. The land revenue is, in my opinion neither rent nor taxation. It is the property of the Government, just as the Crown lands in England are the property of the Queen; and the existence of a right to impose taxes for the general good upon all other property, whether derived from land or from other sources, is no more inconsistent with this proprietary right in the one case than in the other. The fact that the Crown owns the New Forest in Hampshire is no reason whatever why the rest of the land of Hamsphire should not be taxed when the

public good requires it ; and the fact that the Government owns a rent-charge issuing out of all the land in Bengal is no reason why the rest of the produce of the lands should not be taxed when the public good requires it."

But the Public Works Cess Act does not affect any other property than land. It is true that houses and railway lands and mines are brought under assessment, but this is nominal. Sir James' argument would hold good, if an income tax were imposed upon property of all descriptions. But the Cess is an income tax upon the land alone, the exclusive enjoyment of the profits from which was guaranteed to the proprietors, and therefore involves a breach of the Permanent Settlement. Sir James says, "it may be asked, what good there was in the Permanent Settlement; what great benefit it conferred upon the landholders of Bengal, if it left their property subject to taxation? The answer is, that it reduced to a certainty one particular charge on the land, which had previously been of variable amount, and so freed the landholders from uncertainty which had previously hung over them in respect of it. But if land be held liable to special taxation, that taxation is an addition to the public demand upon it, and the security which the Permanent Settlement conferred is necessarily removed. Sir James adds, the line between their property and that of the State has been clearly defined, and is no longer subject to increase 'in consequence,'—to use the words of the Permanent Settlement itself—'of the improvement of their respective estates.'" But it was urged both in the Bengal Council and by the Under-Secretary of State in Parliament that as the wealth of the Zemindars had increased under the Permanent Settlement, they are fit subjects of taxation. If this is not increasing the public demand upon them "in consequence of the improvement of their respective estates," we do not understand what it is? Sir James quotes the following passages from a minute of Lord Cornwallis:

"Although Government has an undoubted right to collect a portion of the produce of the lands to supply the public exigencies, it cannot, consistently with the principles of justice and policy, assume to itself a right of making annual or periodical valuations of the lands, and taking the whole produce, except such portion as it may think proper to relinquish to the proprietors for their maintenance, and for defraying the charges of managing their estates.

The supreme power in every State must possess the power of taxing the subject agreably to certain general rules; but the practice which has prevailed in this country for some time past, of making frequent valuations of the lands, and, where one person's estate has improved and another's declined, of appropriating the increased produce of the former to supply the deficiencies in the latter, is not taxation, but in fact a declaration that the property of the landholder is at the absolute disposal of Government. Every man who is acquainted with the causes which operate to impoverish or enrich a country, must be sensible that our Indian territories must continue to decline as long as the practice is adhered to."

Sir James then remarks:

"These considerations and authorities appear to me to establish beyond all doubt the broad proposition, that the general right of the Government to tax the produce of the land, amongst other forms of property, was altogether unaffected by the Permanent Settlement, and that the pledge then given was simply this—that the Government would for ever abandon a mode of providing for public wants which was regarded as incompatible with the existence of private property, and destructive of all motives for industry."

But Sir James overlooked what Lord Cornwallis said immediately below. We reproduce it:

"The maxim, that equality in taxation is an object of the greatest importance, and that, in justice, all the subjects of a State should contribute, as nearly as possible, in proportion to the income which they enjoy under its protection, does not prove the expediency of varying the demand of Government upon the lands: on the contrary, we shall find that, in countries in which this maxim is one of the leading principles in the imposition of taxes, the valuation of the land on which they are levied is never varied.

In raising a revenue to answer the public exigencies, we ought to be careful to interfere as little as possible in those sources from which the wealth of the subject is derived.

Agriculture is the principal source of the riches of Bengal, the cultivator of the soil furnishes most of the materials for its numerous manufactures. In proportion as agriculture declines the quantities, of these materials must diminish, and the value of them increase, and consequently the manufactures must become dearer, and demand for them be gradually lessened. Improvement in agriculture will produce the opposit effects.

The attention of Government ought therefore to be directed to render the assessment upon the lands at little burdensome as possible: this is to be accomplished only by fixing it. The proprietor will then have some inducement to improve his lands; and as his profits will increase in proportion to his exertions, he will gradually become better able to discharge the public revenue.

By reserving the collection of the internal duties on commerce, Government may at all times appropriate to itself a share of the accumulating wealth of its subjects, without their being sensible of it. The burden will also be more equally distributed; at present, the whole weight rests upon the landholders and cultivators of the soil.

Whereas the merchants and inhabitants of the cities and towns, the proprietors of rent-free lands and, in general, all persons not employed in the cultivation of the lands, paying revenue to Government, contribute but little in proportion to their means, to the exigencies of the State. It is evident, therefore, that varying the assessment on the lands is not the mode of carrying into practice the maxim, that all the subjects of a State ought to contribute to the public exigencies in proportions to their incomes; and that other means must be employed for effecting this object,"—*Minute by Lord Cornwallis, dated February 3rd, 1790.*

Again:

If at any future period the public exigencies should require an addition to your resources, you must look for it in the increase of the general wealth and commerce of the country, and not in the augmentation of the tax upon the land, &c., &c."—*Letter of the Governor-General in Council to the Court of Directors, dated March 6th, 1793.*

Could anything be more clear than these words of Lord Cornwallis, and yet we are told that the contract of the Permanent Settlement did not confer the immunity, which the zemindars claim?

Sir James adds, "I have only to say, in conclusion, that I fully admit that, in order that cesses upon land may be justified, it is necessary that the land should be taxed only as part of the property of the country, and that other kinds of property should bear their fair share in the burden." Can this be said of the Public Works Cess Act? Does it not fall on the land alone?

THE INDIGO PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE Indigo Planters of Behar have established an Association for combined action. We see it stated that a meeting of the planters was held at Muzufferpur on the 21st ultimo for the inauguration of the Association. Every factory in the districts of Chumparun, Chupra, Darbhanga, Monghyr, and Muzufferpur, was represented, as well as the firms in Calcutta interested in indigo cultivation in Behar. Calcutta will be the headquarters of the Association, and a paid Secretary will be appointed, whose duty it will be to go wherever the interests of the Association may require his presence. Pending the appointment of a permanent Secretary, Mr. George Toomey of Kanti was asked to act provisionally. The general committee will consist of sixteen members, four from each district committee. Each district committee will frame its own rules for rates for indigo, and internal administration; these rules will be subject to the approval and confirmation of the general committee. Funds will be provided by a cess of so much per maund of indigo made at concerns joining the Association as may be required to meet expenses. Resolutions were adopted intimating the desire of the Association to meet the Lieutenant-Governor's views, and expressing their satisfaction that Government recognised the difficulties in the way of giving full effect to them, and were prepared to assist in removing the difficulties; also stating that the particular abuses the Lieutenant-Governor complained of did not exist in well managed concerns, and that the Association pledged itself to do what it could to prevent their occurrence. After the general business of the meeting was over a meeting of the District Committees was held, at which among others the following Resolutions were passed:

That in cases where any member of the committee may have an interest in the decision he cannot act or give his opinion, but the remaining members shall make up their number, if necessary, to form a quorum from the general body of planters. That the rate for ryotty indigo in ticca villages shall be not less than Rs. 9 per bigha, free of all cesses and deductions, and in addition to the rent of the land; that the indigo land be measured with a 6½-hath loggy. This rule to take effect from the beginning of season 1877-78. That zerat lands acquired by virtue of a ticcadarri lease only be not held against the wish of the malik at the expiry of a lease. That in undivided villages, zerat lands are not to be cultivated in excess of the share in farm except with the consent of the other shareholders; nor shall the ticcadar, where zerat lands have hitherto been held in common by all the shareholders, appropriate any portion to his separate use without the consent of the co-shareholders. That in ticca villages where ryotty indigo is cultivated, the change of lands shall be confined to each individual jote, and the fields belonging to one man are not to be given in exchange to another. That farmaish of every description shall cease. That if it be brought to the notice of the committee by any member of the Association or Government official that the conduct of any manager of a factory, in respect to his dealings with his maliks, ryots, or coolies, is injurious to the planting interests, the committee shall call on such manager for an explanation of his conduct, and after investigating the matter shall, if necessary, recommend such alteration in his system of management as the committee may consider expedient for the general welfare. Should the manager decline to observe the suggestions of the committee, the case shall then be placed before a general meeting. A copy of the proceedings was sent to the Commissioner of the Division for his own and the Lieutenant-Governor's information, and His Honor has been pleased to express his satisfaction with the rules, and his belief that, if strictly carried out, they will tend greatly to the improvement of the relations between planters and their ryots.

The Indigo planters of Behar have gone to work in the right spirit. The resolutions are fair enough. We hope they will be carried out in the spirit in which they have been proposed. No one wishes any harm to the Indigo enterprise; it is a valuable industry, and if it can be made remunerative to the cultivators, it ought to be encouraged. The question is simply this, whether indigo can pay the planter with fair remuneration to the ryot. This is a problem which the Association should solve. There is a fair prospect of reform of the present system of cultivation, and if the planters go on with the same earnestness with which they have commenced operations, neither the Government nor the public will have any right to complain. The rate for ryotti indigo has been fixed at Rs. 9 per bigga; this is certainly a great jump over the former rate, but we hope it is only a tentative one. At the same time we do not think it is necessary to adopt a uniform rate. In districts where the population is less dense and the lands sparsely cultivated a lower rate may do. But it should be fair and equitable.

A NEW PHASE OF MUNICIPAL POLITICS.

WHEN Mr. J. B. Roberts acted as the champion of the rate-payers of Calcutta in the late Municipal Corporation, the policy was to put him down officially. The public were enlisted on his side, and therefore he could not be get at through the press, and the weapons used to hurt him were official and demi-official letters. The result was that Mr. Roberts received more than one warning against his "talkativeness." The tactics, which were played against Mr. Roberts, are, it would seem, being played against Dr. Rajendralala Mitra in another form. Mr. Eden's Government is too conscientious to lend itself to bye-plays of this kind. The *Englishman* has, however, come to the rescue. That paper has been released from its obligation to the European public in respect of the municipal administration of the town by the absence of the European element in the new Corporation. So it has for some weeks past made it its pastime to attack the native members of the Calcutta Corporation. We doubt whether its invectives find support or sympathy among the better class of Europeans. We have reasons to believe that the very officials, in whose interest apparently it has set in foot these malicious attacks, are ashamed of its language and spirit. Not content with slandering and vilifying the Commissioners as a body the *Englishman* has singled out the tallest amongst them, and under cover of advocating the interests of the native aristocracy has made a gross personal attack upon him anent a matter in which official discipline seals his mouth. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, as the reader is aware, is Director of the Wards' Institution in Bengal, and since the Majority Act has extended the period of nonage of minors under the Court of Wards to 21 years, certain persons, whose personal interest it is to get these minors within their clutches have, it is believed, been plotting to get that law rescinded. Now, it so happened that it was Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, who in the interest of the wards, persistently advocated the extension of their minority to 21 years, and at last succeeded in carrying it through. He has therefore become an especial object of malignity with them, and they have not been idle in undermining him. The *Englishman's* article in its issue of Friday last gives a handle to them. Our contemporary begins by praising the Kattiwar Rajkumar College, the Mayo College at Ajmere, and the Wards' Institution at Benares, and then thus delivers himself about the Calcutta Wards' Institution:

"It is true that there is a so-called "Wards'Institution" in Calcutta; but it has been so long and so utterly neglected that its very existence is a disgrace and a scandal." Who has told our contemporary that this institution is utterly neglected or that its existence is a "disgrace and a scandal?" The Institution is under the superintendence of a native gentleman, who is an ornament to his nation; it has a body of visitors, comprising some of the highest officials of the province and some of the most respectable native gentlemen in the town, who visit it every month,and what do their reports shew? Do these reports shew that the existence of the institution is a "disgrace and a scandal?." Comparisons are odious, but we cannot help saying that none of the Colleges which the *Englishman* patronises has ever prepared a candidate for the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta or any other University, but the local Institution has trained boys up to the First Arts, nor has the career in after life of its pupils proved by any means unsatisfactory. Some of the most exemplary among them as landholders, at the head of whom we place Raja Promotho Nath Roy of Digaputty, whose intelligence, public spirit and high character have won him at an early age a seat in the Bengal Council, owed their education to this institution, and are they a "disgrace and a scandal?" The other day an ex-ward of the institution Babu Surjukant Acharjee, of Mymensing, whom the Government has honored with the title of Rai Bahadur, was highly complimented by the Lieutenant Governor at the Dacca Durbar, for his public spirit and munificent liberality; there are others who are serving their country as Honorary Magistrates and Municipal Commissioners. Then the writer says, "we believe it is notorious that, as a rule, no minor under the Court of Wards will join it whose relations can by any effort persuade the Government to excuse their doing so." Does not the writer know that it is a natural feeling with the mothers to keep their boys with them if they can manage to do so, and does that feeling mark the unpopularity of the Institution or of the Director? The writer then remarks: "The native aristocracy are unanimous in regarding it with aversion and suspicion; and yet, though successive Commissioners of the Presidency Division have timidly nibbled at the subject, nothing has been done to establish a better school on a more rational footing." We wish our contemporary had given facts. No Presidency Commissioner has ever written a single syllable against the Institution or its management. And we have yet to know that the institution is looked upon by the native aristocracy with "aversion and suspicion." If it were so, then guardians of minors, who were not under the Court of Wards would not have voluntarily placed them in the institution. Would the late Raja of Nattore have sent his brother or the Chuckdighee and Lalloie zemindars their boys to the institution, if the feeling among the native aristocracy in respect of the institution was such as our contemporary describes it? Next we are told that the Director labors under a natural infirmity; it is his misfortune, but that does not impair his usefulness as the head of the Institution. It should be remembered that the function of the Director is general superintendence; there are separate tutors who teach the boys morning and evening, and during the day they attend the Hindu School. But much more onerous duties have been performed by men under much greater physical disadvantages. The great Thomason, the ablest Governor the North-Western Provinces ever had, was deaf, so was Mr. Greenlaw who was for many years the Coroner of Calcutta,and to whose memory the inhabitants of Caleutta voted a bust for the Town Hall. It is notorious that our present Finance Minister cannot make a thorough use of his eyes, but no one is so mean as to question his qualifications on that score. As for the system under which the wards are trained we have not yet seen any specific complaint against it. On the contrary Committees were appointed over and over and they could not recommend any thing better. We do not hesitate to say that we know of no native gentleman, who is a better educationist in theory or in practice than Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, and yet we are told that to place the wards under him "is not the way in which a truly paternal Government would provide for the education of those of its wealthy subjects who are placed more directly than others under its charge." Again, the writer says, "the site of the institution, and all its arrangements, seem to be as bad as they can well be." The institution is located in one of the best native villas in Manicktollah in the suburbs of Calcutta; its sanitary arrangements are excellent, and the best proof of this is the good health which the boys generally enjoy. A casual visit to the institution shews that the boys are hale, hearty, and contented, and the affection which they bear to the Director is the best testimony to his success. Then the writer says, "all native gentlemen of birth or position appear to be more or less ashamed of the place." This is merely a repetition of the sweeping invective we have noticed above. But if "all native gentlemen of birth and position" were really "ashamed of the place," they would have doubtless taken measures to express their feeling. But the writer takes upon himself the task of leading them. He says, "why do they not unite in making a strong representation to the Lieutenant-Governor, drawing His Honor's attention to the fact that a great wrong is done to the youthful nobility and gentry of Bengal by the maintenance of an institution so utterly unsuited to their wishes and requirements?" The simple answer to this question is that the native gentlemen do not think in the way the writer assumes they do. The whole article is conceived in a malicious spirit, which is so transparent that one may run and read it. The head and front of Dr. Rajendralala's offending seems to be his championship of the rate-payers in the new corporation, and he must therefore be put down with a high hand. This is what we call a new phase of the *Englishman's* municipal politics.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF CALCUTTA.

IN compliance with our invitation Dr. Rajendralala Mitra has favoured us with the following remarks on Dr. Coates' letter on the watter supply of Calcutta. They speak so fully for themselves that we have nothing to add to them:

"It is gratifying to notice that so distinguished and able a gentleman as Dr. Coates has directed his attention to the much-vexed question of the water supply of Calcutta. The question is a difficult and intricate one to solve; but if the learned Doctor will persevere, one may fairly expect that his vast learning and thorough familiarity with the science of Hygiene will help materially to cast aside the shroud of ignorance, prejudice and fallacious reasoning with which it is now enveloped. The misunderstanding on the subject has of late led to much acerbity of temper and ill-feeling towards me. I am now too old to be disturbed by abuse and bad language; but in the interest of the people of Calcutta, I am anxious that the importance of the question might not be lost sight of in the heat of personal animosity and ill-feeling.

"Dr. Coates commences his letter with the complaint that his speech at the last meeting of the Calcutta Municipality had not been fully reported, and his views had been consequently misrepresented. I am a much greater sufferer in that respect; and words have been attributed to me which I never uttered.

"The admission made by Dr. Coates "that the water of tanks which are properly banked and guarded against surface contamination and other impurities do not cause cholera," is an important one, as it helps very largely to a clear understanding of the case. The proposition being granted, and none can take exception to it, the question arises, if tanks under the circumstances mentioned are not injurious, why should not those circumstances apply to wells? The mouths of ninety-nine out of every hundred wells in Calcutta are surrounded by high masonry embankments; no surface drainage of the lands around them can possibly find its way into them: no one ever gets into a well to bathe; and the water required for rinsing clothes and washing domestic utensils, is drawn out in buckets or *lotas*, and after use runs to waste, but never finds its way directly back to its source. Consequently wells are the least liable to contamination, and should, under the principle laid down by Dr. Coates, be the last source whence cholera is to be apprehended. But the Health-Officer, in his raid against tanks, does not at all spare the wells; and in his reports not only denounced, the one as freely as the other, but has closedthem both very extensively. A thorough believer in the efficacy of the good old maxim about giving a bad name to a dog and hanging it, he never fails to carry it out to the letter. I do not deny that there are many bad wells in Calcutta. In theNorthWesternProvinces, where the soil is dense and hard, and the water bearing strata of the earth,-lie at a great depth, necessitating the sinking of wells from 50 to 80 feet below the surface to reach the water, wells are the principal sources of water-supply, and they are not much liable to contamination. But sunk in a soft, porous, alluvial soil no well in the Gangetic delta can be good; the infiltration of drainage water through the soil within a few feet of the surface must always taint the water, and in thickly, peopled towns, which have been aptly described by Buckle as "the graves of mankind," where the soil is more or less saturated with sewage and filth of various kinds the contamination is greatly intensified. In tanks a large surface is generally exposed to the sun and wind, and the impure matter in their water is rapidly decomposed, and converted into nitrites and nitrates, whereas in wells the water is very little agitated and sun-light cannot bear on it except for a few minutes —in some places no sun-light can at all come in contact with it—and consequently the impurity becomes permanent. Hence it is that in Calcutta no man ever drinks well-water. And as long as the water is not drunk, no evil can result from it. The impure matter in wells, however, whatever else it may be, does not consist of fresh undecomposed animal matter which rotting in the well could give out noxious effluvia, and therefore no cholera can proceed from it. Under these circumstances, and bearing in mind the urgent necessity there exists for retaining the tanks and wells of Calcutta as sources of supply for water required for washing purposes as long as the Pulta supply remains so totally inadequate, I should like much to know how far Dr. Coates would justify the action of the Health-Officer in forcibly closing the wells of Calcutta. The cry of extreme urgency might be pleaded, but the published reports of that officer nowhere shows that any such urgency did actually anywhere arise. The Health-Officer has somewhere adverted to milk being diluted with foul water, and cholera following the use of such milk; but I have read of hypodermic injection of cholera dejection not being invariably followed by an attack of that disease.

"As regards the tanks of Calcutta I can most sincerely say that I do not like most of them, and would be glad to see them filled up. But I entirely concur in the opinion expressed by Dr. Coates, at the last meeting,that it would be a "crime" to deprive the people of water, and that it is better to let them have bad water rather than cut off all supply. It should be also prominently borne in mind that the water of the tanks is used solely for washing purposes, but *never* drunk, and as long as it is not drunk it does not cause cholera. People bathing in it might suffer from other diseases, but *never* from epidemic cholera—at least there is no proof whatever that the presence of bad water in a bustee generates that disease. The case of the inundated districts of Chittagong and Bakerganj cited by Dr. Coates is not parallel. As I pointed out at the meeting, there the people were driven to drink the foul water, having nothing else at hand, whereas in Calcutta every one—even the poorest—drinks filtered water, and use the tank water only for washing.

"In his 3rd para Dr. Coates dwells upon the "care and discrimination, with which the Chairman and the Health-Officer have closed the tanks and the wells of Calcutta. His remarks, however, are based upon the assumption that the statements of the Health-Officer are correct, and no one has yet contradicted them. But the premises, as shown by the Editor of the *Hindoo Patriot*, are not correct, and the conclusion therefore may be set aside as unsound. I for one can most conscientiously declare that the Health-Officer's description of the tanks of Calcutta are often too high-colored and transcendental to be correct in a number of cases. It is also certain that nothing has been done to improve the tanks in the way suggested by Dr. Coates in his 4th para.

The press of other more onerous and congenial duties leaves me no time to think of municipal matters, except when driving from home to the municipal meetings, or in course of conversation with friends, and I cannot therefore lay any claim to the credit which Dr. Coates assigns to some of the Commissioners of "carefully and regularly elaborating their arguments." I often feel the disadvantage of unpreparedness, which obliges me to lay bare many a chink in my logical armour; but with a fair memory and the experience acquired during the last twelve years of my connexion with the Calcutta Municipality, I have, in discussing its affairs, an advantage which new members must necessarily lack. It may be to the interest of a writer in the *Englishman*, who blessed with higher powers of imitation than what was owned by the authors of the

"Rejected Addresses," reproduces with such inimitable perfection the style of the Health-Officer,* to attribute to the Commissioners a period of "three months" for the elaboration of their speeches; but he must have been well aware that the Quarterly Report was issued on a Saturday—I got it on Sunday—and the meeting was held on the Wednesday following, and there were only *three* clear *days* instead of *three months* for elaboration; but occasional misrepresentations of this kind are excusable in writers of a certain class.

"I am sorry to learn that Dr. Coates has had "to make a couple of unsuccessful attempts to have the tank behind his residence filled up." He does not say whether he will continue to occupy the house during the time that the operation of filling up the tank will proceed, but if he will do so without the use of disinfectants, and for two months dwell close beside it with the sweepings of the town *i. e.*, with stable refuse, kitchen midden, offals and filth and rubbish of all kinds, interspersed with dead cats and decapitated dogs, reeking and festering with the infiltrations from the sides of the tank, and with the myriad millions of flies which will infest his house, all I can say is that I would not envy his lot. He will doubtless establish the extent to which he has the courage of his conviction, and if no annoyance be felt nor any evil consequences follow I shall never again say a word against the filling up of tanks with street sweepings, though I am convinced that if I were to be subjected to the experiment, death would relieve me of all municipal woes long before the period of trial would be over; but then I am a martyr to dyspepsia. Much has been said of the harmlessness of cultivation with sewage, but I venture to think that Croydon with its sewage-fields is not quite as healthful and sweet a place to live in as Belgravia.

"The extracts read by me at the last meeting from Dr. Parkes' Practical Hygiene were so inaccurately reported and so mangled that I am not surprised at Dr. Coates attributing to me what I did not say. What I did say was, that, according to Dr. Parkes, an average of 35 gallons per head was required for people of temperate climates; that for hospitals the average, according to the same authority, was between 38 and 46 gallons; and that in the Torrid zone we required 50 gallons. To prevent misapprehension I said (as reported in the *Indian Mirror* of the 29th ultimo, which reported my speech more fully and correctly than the other dailies) "Mind, the people will not drink all this 50 gallons of water, but for all sorts of uses." I iterated and reiterated this to such an extent and so often that a friend, who sat to my right, felt annoyed, and complained that I was dwelling on elementary matters, which were well understood, and needed no explanation. Nevertheless, I find, I was misunderstood. Dr. Coates reminds me that much of the average of 35 gallons "goes in the manufactures, in steam, in the washing of clothes and scrubbing of floors, but most of all in the flushing of the W. C. which usually exists in every flat or storey of every house in London. *Here* the children have few or no clothes to wash, and most of the adults can, and do, wash their entire garments in a few minutes without the loss of much water, and as to the individual latrine arrangements of the great majority, the amount used is small indeed." The explanation here given does not apply to hospitals. Dr. Parkes' estimate is exclusive of all trade uses. It runs thus:

	Gallons.
For drinking and cooking, washing kitchen and utensils, ...	2 to 4
For personal washing and general baths, ...	18 to 20
For laundry washing, ...	5 to 6
Washing hospital utensils &c. ...	3 to 6
Water-closets, ...	10 10
Total ...	38 to 46

"This average is a good deal under the actuals derived from the records of the Fever Hospital of Calcutta. From a letter of Mr Bowser, Steward of that hospital, it appears that there are forty tanks, each a cube of 4 feet, which have to be filled daily to meet the requirements of the hospital. Now, as a cube of 4 feet is equal to 64 cubit feet, forty such would be equal to 2560 cubic feet of water, which at 6·34 gallons to the foot would give a total of 16,230·40 gallons for an average of 200 patients, or 8 gallons per head. This is exclusive of what is required for servants, attendants, cooks, horses and dissecting wards, for which separate pipes have been laid. This is however exceptional, and I quote it only to show that Dr. Coates' explanation does not apply in all cases, and that Dr. Parkes' estimate is by no means exaggerated.

"As regards the people generally, Dr. Parkes' after carefully scrutinizing in detail the different items which go to make up the total, observes: "if now, the total daily amount for all purposes be stated per head of population, it will be as follows:

	Gallons.
Domestic supply (without baths or closets), ..	12
Add, for general baths, ...	4
Water-closets, ..	6
Unavoidable waste, ...	3
Total house supply, ...	25
Town and trade purposes, animals in non-manufacturing towns, ...	5
Add, for exceptional manufacturing towns, ...	5
Total ...	35

"The first item includes drinking, cooking, washing of plates, pans and domestic utensils, scrubbing of the house, and rinsing of clothes. In hot climates the loss by perspiration is greater than in cold climates, and it has to be made up by a plentiful supply of drinks. In Calcutta the people at large do not take beer and stout, and the place of those drinks has to be supplied by water; consequently Dr. Parkes' estimate of 3½ to 5 pints under this head must be exceeded. Cooking too in India requires a larger supply than in England; for all our dishes are boiled, whereas in England roasting and baking form the leading characterstics of the culinary art. The third head must, I fancy, be very much the same in either country; if there be any difference it must be due to the peculiar religious prejudice of the Hindus about *sagri*, which necessitates much more frequent washing of pots and pans than what obtains in Europe. The house scrubbing is also a religious institution here, which, however offensive to Englishmen on account of the use of cow-dung for such purposes, is one which requires more water than what is wanted in England. The Hindus must daily wash every room in the house, whereas Englishmen in India do not wash a single room from year's end to year's end, except the kitchen. In London too the case must be very much the same. In England the use of woollen and indigo-dyed clothes obviates in a great measure the necessity of frequent washing. I am not aware whether the word "stinker" for a shirt is Yankee or English, but it conveys a very vivid idea of the neglect of washing their small clothes among those who use the word. Generally speaking linen and cotton clothes in England, if I am not misinformed are washed only once a week, a particular day being set aside for the purpose, and it is called the "washing day." In Bengal, on the other hand, however sparse the clothes and whatever their nature, they are washed daily, a Hindu being prohibited the use of food in the morning until he has washed or changed his clothes. With rare exceptions among the lowest of the low, this rule is regularly observed, and the necessity for a larger supply of water for the purpose is universally felt. The washing, I must admit is very unsatisfactorily done in a few minutes without soap or any alkaline lay—a mere rinsing; but in a sanitary point of view, I think, frequent inadequate washings are better than perfect washing after long intervals. Wet napkins here invariably supply the place of dry towels of England. Thus under every head the Hindus require more water than Englishmen, 12 gallons a head are quite inadequate for the purpose. To make this clear it would be well to observe that 12 gallons is equal to 56 seers, and that quantity would fill just four *kalsis*, and our Indian readers would be able easily to make out whether four kalsis per head would be sufficient or not for all the requirements of a house. They must bear in mind that there will be no tank or well to which people could resort, as it present, for washing their plates and pans. I think sixteen gallons absolutely necessary.

"It may be that in the case of very poor families, so much will not be required, but the difference will be made up by the better and more cleanly classes of the people. Dr. Parkes justly observes that "in estimating the quantity of water required for each person, it is necessary to allow a liberal supply. There should be economy and avoidance of waste; but still, any error in supply had far better be on the side of excess. In England many poor families, either from the difficulty of obtaining water, or of getting rid of it, or from the habits of uncleanliness thus handed down from father to son, use an extremely small amount. It would be quite incorrect to take this amount as the standard for the community at large, or even to fix the smallest quantity which will just suffice for moderate cleanliness."

"Four gallons or a kalsi for baths may be ample in England, where the number of washings is extremely limited, and a regular bath among the poorer classes does not occur more than once in a week. In Calcutta people bathe regularly once a day, not unfrequently twice. Then we have to provide for the institution of washing the feet, which takes place three or four times every day, and the washing of the hands and face after every meal, which, in the absence of spoons and forks, entails a much larger consumption of wate than what is required in England. Many rich and wrall-to-do people use 8 or 10 kalsis for batting, whereas others use less than two, but at an average, I think, two kalsis or 9 gallons absolutely wanted under this head.

"Dr. Coates lays considerable stress upon the superiority of the W. C. arrangements in London, and, as far as mechanical arrangements are concerned, he is perfectly right; but he should bear in mind that the use of water in W. C. is in England often supplemented or substituted by that of waste paper and tow, and there is nothing equivalent to that in Calcutta among the Hindus, and water is in greater requisition here. Waste too, unavoidable and inevitable, there must be more here than in England for causes which it is needless to dilate upon.

"Dr. Parkes does not include in his estimate the watering of streets, and general Municipal uses. Mr. Clark, in a memo. dated December 28, 1871, gives the following figures under that head:

Wellington Square Engines, ...	2,43,175
Laterines and N. S. depots, ..	2,08,755
Entally shops, ...	3,558
Watering of streets at 2 gallons per square yard, ...	11,66,604
Total	16,22,093

"These estimates have, however been greatly exceeded since, and the whole of the unfiltered supply amounting to two and a half million gallons, is insufficient for these purposes. The N. S. depots alone take now a million and a half gallons, and when the new Hallal core system will be completed two million gallons will barely suffice. When the house corrections are completed the quantity of water required for W. C's. will treble; and the watering of streets must be considerably extended, if justice is to be done to the Northern Division of the town. On the whole I think three and a half million gallons for the purpose will not be an underestimate.

"Dr. Parkes allows only 5 gallons for each horse. This may be, for aught I know, all right for London; but I found this morning fourteen horses of different sizes in my stables drink, at an average, three gallons each. They get a similar allowance in the afternoon, and the washing of their face and feet, morning and evening, require six gallons more. Then they are bathed on alternate days, and each bathing requires 20 gallons, or 10 gallons a day, making a total of 22 gallons each. From the last annual report I find that there are 5617 horses in Calcutta, which at the above rate would give 123,574 gallons. For the washing of 3,899, carriages at 8 gallons 31,192; add for 30,000 heads of cattle at 15 gallons 450,000 gallons, and the total would be 604,766 gallons.

"For the shipping the sales as shown in a memo. just printed amount to 6,750,000 gallons per annum, which give an average of 18493, gallons per day.

"I have no data to compute the quantity of water used in trade; but if I put it down at 2 gallons a head, it would be 9,68,000. gallons.

Putting these figures together we have.

Municipal uses ...	..	35,00,000
Shipping ..	...	18,493
Horses ...	...	1,23,574
Carriages ...	...	31,192
Cattle ...	...	4,50,000
Trade ...	...	9,68,000
Total ...	...	50,83,259 or 11 gallons per head.

To bring together the different items above set forth:

	Gallons.
Domestic supply	16
Baths	9
W. C.	6
Waste	6
	37
General	11
Additional for flushing of drains, unknown, say	2
Total	50

"It would not be amiss to observe here that, though the supply in London in 1868-69 was 35 gallons per head, it was held to be totally inadequate, and several schemes were submitted to double it. A Royal Commission was appointed in 1869 to report on the merits of those schemes, and among them Mr. Bateman's scheme, which proposed a supply of two hundred and twenty-two million gallons, was supposed the best to meet the wants of London. It gave an average of nearly 80 gallons, per head. The Bombay Commission of 1869 showed that a section of the Bombay people

*We have been assured that the Health-Officer is not responsible for this imitation.—Ed. *H. P.*

used nearly 60 gallons per head. And I venture to think therefore that my estimate for Calcutta, assuming that all tanks and wells are closed, would not by any means be excessive.

"Dr. Coates adduces two arguments to show that my estimate is excessive: 1st, that the River Hooghly would be exhausted if called upon to yield 50 gallons per head; and 2nd, that the tanks and wells now do not yield so large a supply. Regarding the 1st he says "according to the last Census Calcutta proper contains 4,29,535 inhabitants. If these used 21,476,750 gallons daily, and Howrah and the suburbs a like proportion, would the sacred Hooghly itself supply them all?" When I read this I first thought that the learned Dr. was indulging in a *jeu de mot*, or a bit of fun, or a joke; but the tone of his letter would not admit of the inference. I then thought, that he had been misled by the long array of figures, but that too was not tenable; and at last I came to the conclusion that he had been imposed upon by some mischievous wag who had indulged in a practical joke on him The Dr. must be well aware that the Thames, a smaller river than the Hooghly, yields daily fifty million gallons to the five Companies which take their water at Thames, Ditton, or Hampton, and ten millions more to one of the Lea Companies, without at all feeling the loss. Loch Katerine yields 50 gallons per head for Glasgow, and has done so for many years without showing any signs of exhaustion; and even the little River Lea, which, in Bengal, would be called a *nullah*, yields nineteen million gallons to the East London Company, and nearly as much more to the New River and the Kent Companies. I have not at hand any recent data to show the flow of the Hooghly; but in 1854, the late Lieutenant Colonel Goodwyn ascertained a discharge of 444,960, cubic feet per second before Clive Street Ghat, in the month of March, when the flow is the slackest. About that time Mr. Bedford, H. C. S. River Surveyor, found the discharge in the same month, below Calcutta near Mayapur, to be 507,060 cubic feet, and near Diamond Harbour 12,77,069, cubic feet. Reduced into gallons at 6·34 per cubic foot the figures give 2,821,046, 3 214,760, and 8 096,237, per second. During the rainy and autumn months the discharge is sextupled, and consequently my estimate of twenty-one million gallons would be covered by 1 to 8 seconds of the discharge according to season. As there are 86,400 seconds in a day, the river will no more feel the loss, than would the ocean by the removal of a drop.

"The fallacy of the second argument I cannot demonstrate quite so clearly. But if it be borne in mind that all wells are fountains, which draw a constant supply from the water-bearing stratum below them, that most of the tanks are also replenished in the same way, and that all are filled more or less by infiltration from their sides, the argument will appear as weak as possible. It should be remembered, further, that in tanks the same water is used over and over again for washing purposes, and therefore there is no loss whatever. These remarks have, however, already run to such a length that I apprehend the Editor of the *Hindoo Patriot* will grudge me the necessary space, and I must for the present here close. Should Dr. Coates favour me with his views on the subject, and point out any mistakes that he might notice in the above remarks, I shall be glad to rectify them and, if necessary, alter my opinion."

WEATHER AND CROP REPORTS.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Simla, 31st July 1877.

Weather reports up to thirtieth: for Madras: heavy rain in Bellary, good rain in Cuddapah, Kurnool, North Arcot, Masalipatam, and Nellore, average fall one and half inches reported generally West of Nallamalla Hills in Kurnool, this saves growing crops for present. For Bombay: no rain in Gujrat, except slight showers in Kaira and good showers in Surat, good rain in Tanna, Ahmednugger, Sholapur, Sattara, Dharwar and worst parts of Belgaum. Showers in Colaba, Bombay, Nasik, Dhulia, Poona and Kaladgi, rain wanted in Konkan. For Panjab: good rain at Railpindee. For Rajpootana, clouds gathering and no damage likely within next ten days. For Mysore, showers in districts. For Bengal, all favorable, except more rain wanted in Chota Nagpor, elsewhere unchaged except slight rain in Sitapore and Fyzabad.

Simla 1st August 1877.

Reports to thirty first: for Bombay, showers in nearly all districts and good rain in parts, heavy rain in Bombay, more wanted in Deccan and Guzrat: for Madras, heavy rain in Bellary, great improvement in Kistna, rain in Vizagapatam and Godavery: for Bengal, moderate rain in most districts except Balasore and Chota Nagpore, heavy in Rungpore. Drought continues in North-West, slight rain in most districts of Central Provinces.

Simla, 2nd August 1877.

Reports for first August. For North-West: slight showers at Benares, Allahabad, Meerut, Kumyun, Lucknow, Sitapur, Khairagarh and Bariely. Report from Fyzabad states agricultural prospects extremely bad, from Bareilly if good rain does not fall within ten days, rice crops cannot be sown; other crops sown when first rain fell, drying up fast; from Mysore, no rain at Bangalore but light showers in districts with some benefit; from Madras, slight fall Madras city; from Hyderabad good fall last night, good shower, to-day, promise of more; from Central Provinces rain in Sangor and Nimar wanted in Damoh and Mandla where rice crop suffering, elsewhere light showers.

Simla 3rd August 1877.

Reports to 2nd Central India. No rain in Central Provinces. Rain in more districts in North West. Slight rain in Benares, Allahabad, Jhansi, Meerut, Kumaon, Lucknow, Sitapur and Fyzabad. From Hyderabad, no rain, from Bombay good rain, Satara, Dharwar slight. Tanna and Colaba, no rain in Gujerat, from Mysore, weather showery but no continuous rain; from Madras, good rain in Madras, Kristna and Godavery.

Simla, 4th August 1877.

To-day's *Gazette* general remarks weather crops week ending August 2nd. More or less rain in all districts, Madras, heavy in Kristna, Bellary moderate. In Cuddapah, Nellore Madras, Chinglepeet, Kurnool, North and South Arcot and Tanjore slight and insufficient, in Trichinopoly, Madura, Tinnevelly, Coimbatore and Salem prospects of harvest somewhat improved, but distress very severe. From Mysore, slight rain reported, prospects not materially improved. From Bombay, good rain or beneficial showers in most parts except Guzrat and Sind, rain much wanted in Guzrat, in Sind, river very low, threatening loss of crops. From Central Provinces, good rain, prospects favorable more rain wanted in Eastern parts. From Behar, good rain, more wanted. From Central India, some rain in parts, but more everywhere needed: from Rajputana crops will be endangered if more rain does not soon fall: from Bengal reports favorable but more rain wanted in parts of Behar, Chota Nagpore and Orissa, from Assam and Burma excellent reports, from North-West and Oudh slight insufficient rain, but note to-day's telegrams subsequent to Gazette from Panjab good rain in Rowalpindee, Multan and Lahore, showers elsewhere. Rain generally wanted, condition of crops fair.

Simla, 4th August 1877.

Weather and crops reports up to 3rd: North-West, heavy rain in districts Benares and Allahabad part of Agra-prospects reported from Allahabad better, showers in Jhansi; fair rain in Lucknow, Fyzabad and Kumaon, none in Meerut and Bereilly, from Bombay showers in all Deccan collectorates, Belgaum and Ratnagiri good rain, Karwar, Tanna and Alibag. Prospects improving in Khandeish, Nassick, Satara and Amednagar, more rain wanted in Guzrat. From Hyderabad, slight showers from Central India no rain but sultry.

Simla 5th August 1877.

Weather reports dated 4th August, North West Provinces splendid rain for the last two days, from the proper quarter no present ground for further anxiety there. From Central Provinces, heavy rain at Damoh but Mandla Bilaspoor Sambalpur still dry elsewhere favourable. From Bombay good fall on Coast at Karwar and showers Tanna Satara. Belgaum, and most of Deccan Collectorates, but absence of rain in Gujarat, causes much anxiety. From Hyderabad no rain, from Madras heavy rain Sunoor. August first also Oodaygiri and Atmakur talagus of Nellore rain Cuddapah Vizagapatam Bimlipatam Gooty. From Mysore 4th august no rain, Mysore some in Coorg. From Central India no rain, very sultry. From Rajputana rain in Dholpur but elsewhere anxiously looked for. Further report, from Central India dated fifth reports heavy clouds. from Punjab dated first fair rain at Lahore, Jullundar, Multan Dera Ismail Khan, Umballa and probably general.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

We beg to draw attention to an influentially signed requisition published in another column, intimating that a meeting of the friends and admirers of the late Maharaja Ramanath Tagore C. S. I. will be held at the Town Hall on Friday next at 4-30 P. M., for the purpose of adopting measures for commemorating the memory of the deceased Maharaja. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor will preside.

We are requested to announce that Tuesdays and Saturdays at 9 A. M. are the Surgical operation days in the Medical College Hospital and that old Licentiates and all other qualified medical gentlemen who wish to attend will be welcomed by the Medical staff of the institution.

It is well known that the accounts from the famine districts, especially Madras, have been giving great anxiety to the Government of India. His Excellency the Viceroy has accordingly for some time past been contemplating a visit to Bombay and Madras for personal consultation with the Governors of those Provinces. We hear that His Excellency will probably leave Simla for that purpose next week.

The Crescent is again triumphant. The Turks have won two victories over the Russians, such as have not crowned the arms of either of the combatants in this war. The Turkish flag is now as much in the ascendant in Europe as in Asia. Of course fortune is fickle, and nobody can say what the morrow may bring forth. But it is evident that the Turks have been fighting with a courage and determination which the Cossacks did little expect. We are only surprised that they allowed their enemy to cross the Danube and Balkhan so easily, but the mystry we dare say will be solved sooner or later. The news of Turkish success as might be expected has filled the Mahomedans of India with great satisfaction. They have been holding prayer-meetings to offer thanks-givings to the Disposer of All Events for vouchsafing success to the arms of their co-religionists.

Reuter gave us a very meagre report of the debate in the House of Commons on the question of the repeal of the Indian cotton duties. It appears that Sir George Campbell strongly opposed the Manchester men, and moved an amendment for the postponament of the remission of the duties. Mr. Fawcett was very indignant, and nothing could be more significant than that the apostle of free trade should have lent the authority of his name and advocacy to the anti-repeal party. We will notice the debate in our next.

From enquiries, which we have been able to make about stocks of rice in and about Calcutta, and the probable importation from this date to the middle of November next we glean the following information:

Stocks in andabout Calcutta.

Hatkhola, Coomertolly, Jorabagan, Pathuriaghata, Burrabazar &c.	8½	lacs of mds.	
Beliaghatta (chiefly ballam rice)	7	Do.	Do.
Tallygunge, Kidderpore, Chetla &c.	2½	Do.	Do.
Sulkea, Ramkristopore &c.	1½	Do.	Do.
Afloat in boats, not unloaded	5	Do.	Do.
Total	24½	Do.	Do.

Expected to arrive.

Mungi rice from Rungpore, Dinagepore &c. within a fortnight—	6	Do.	Do.
Ditto ditto ditto ditto from middle of August to middle of November	20	Do.	Do.
Purubi rice ditto ditto ditto	8	Do.	Do.
Rarhi or coarse rice from Western Bengal and Behar, *i.e.* from Burdwan to Patna	8	Do.	Do.
Backergunge	1	Do.	Do.
Goalando and Khoostea	2	Do.	Do.
24-Pergunnahs, Ghattal, Mandleghat, Midnapore and Cuttack	5	Do.	Do.
Dacca, Naraingunge, Muddingunge and interior say	4	Do.	Do.
Serajgunge	4	Do.	Do.
Total	58	Do.	Do.

Now from 1st February to 23rd July last the exports to Madras amounted 56,62,000 maunds, and to Ceylon and Bombay 14,89,000 maunds, making a total of 71,54 000 maunds. This amount is less by about 16 lacs than the total given in the Customs House returns. The error in these returns has we learn been for the first time discovered by Mr. Mackenzie, the Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal. As the rice for coast trade is not subject to duty, the Customs House officials do not seem to be particular about it. The mistake we understand has arisen in this way. As soon as a steamer is engaged the exporter gets a manifest passed by the Customs House for a certain quantity, say ten thousand maunds, but the quantity shipped is generally less, and the two therefore do not tally. The mistake in the Customs House returns, however, remains uncorrected. Mr. Mackenzie has discovered and rectified it by verifying the quantities actually shipped from information received from the shippers. We hope the mistake will not occur in future returns.

The price of rice as we stated last week had lately gone down Re. 1-4 annas per maund, but it again rose 6 annas per maund within the last three or four days. A telegram was received from Madras on Saturday last stating that the price there had gone down again 4 annas per maund, and there is therefore again a downward tendency in Calcutta.

While upon this subject we are surprised to learn that the Eastern Bengal Railway Company have raised the fare for rice from 3 annas and 6 pie to 9 annas per maund. This enormous increase of fare has checked the export of rice from the Eastern districts. We hope the Government will enquire into this matter.

AT LAST Saturday's meeting of the Law Faculty of the Calcutta University the applications for the Tagore Law Professorship were taken into consideration. The votes we understand were thus divided: for Dr. Gurudas Banerjea 7 votes; for Mr. Forsyth 2. We congratulate Dr. Gurudas Banerjea upon his success. He is a man of sterling merit but great modesty. We make no doubt but that the Senate will confirm the nomination of the Faculty of Law.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Government of Bengal has appointed Babu Brohmomohun Mullick, Head Master of the Hooghly Normal School, to be Assistant Inspector of the Western Circle; he will act under Babu Bhudeb Mookerjea, Inspector of the Circle. We think this opportunity should be taken to amalgamate the Hooghly Normal School with the Calcutta Normal School, and thus establish one good model school in the capital. The Government will also do well to secure the present house of the Calcutta Normal School, which is for sale.

OUR SPECIAL correspondent at Simla has sent us further Quettah news in the following telegram dated the 2nd instant:

Further news from Quetta giving following details of recent outrage. Captain Scott was drilling his Regiment when two men of the Banzai Kakars were observed sitting and watching him. Lieutenants Hewson and Kunhardt met by accident near the spot and agreed to inspect some works in progress not distant; the two Kakars subsequently joined by a third were observed to follow them, they were enquiring into a dispute about measurement between a contractor and a workman, the other coolies on the works having been dismissed for the day when the three men approached from behind unobserved cut down Lieutenant Hewson and wounded Kunhardt and killed an armed Sepoy of the fourth Sikhs, who ran to the rescue. Captain Scott seeing the affray ran up and bayonetted the three murderers who attacked him in succession; their motive is still unknown. Some suspecion attached to the Naib of Quetta who is a great intriguer but investigation not completed. The Brahnis under Sirdar Moulla Muhammed as usual behaved in a very friendly way. Sirdar Sadi Khan Banzalzai who was at his home hastened to Quetta with a body of his men directly when he heard of the outrages.

THE FACILITIES for inter-communication which have been established in this country by the introduction of the Railway system render the study of the Urdu language very desirable. It is the *lingua franca* of India. As an aid to this study Rai Kaliprosunno Sen has published a treatise in the Bengali character, explaining the forms and structure of the language. It is a very useful guide, and a grown-up student may easily learn the language with its help.

THE MORNING PAPERS publish a calmly written note from a rate-payer on the Mehters' strike setting forth objections to compulsory service. The objections are certainly reasonable, but the writer is too late. He ought to have moved in the matter before the present system had been determined upon. We are inclined to think that a licensing system would have perhaps worked better than the compulsory system; it was certainly necessary to bring the Mehters under Municipal supervision and control, and this object would have been attained by the issue of licenses. But the Commissioners cannot now retrace their steps. What is done is done. But this does not preclude the Commissioners from revising the schedule of rates, which we do not hesitate to say is unfair and inequitable. The first three classes of the schedule affect the poor middle class, and the rates fixed seem to be much in excess of the charges which many of them used to incur under the voluntary system. Thus there are many families, comprising three, four or five souls, and they we are informed used to pay annas 8 a month, but they must now pay either Re. 1-8, if their houses be assessed at Rs. 100 but less than Rs. 300 or Rs. 2 per month, if the same be assessed at Rs. 300 or more per annum. On the other hand the rich are easily let off. The maximum rate is Rs. 3-8 per month, whereas many rich persons pay monthly from eight to ten rupees. The schedule is the most inequitable; under it the poor will have to pay more and the rich less. The charge is not intended to be a tax, and yet practically it will operate as a grievous burden upon the poor. We hope the Commissioners will revise the schedule on an equitable basis.

BHARATI is the name of a new periodical started by Babu Dijendranath Tagore. The name of the editor is a sufficient guarantee of its excellence. The first number is a very fair specimen. In matter, style and tone it fulfils the character of a first class magazine.

MR. ANANDARAM BRUOOAH has undertaken a gigantic task—an English-Sanscrit Dictionary, and he deserves all praise for the patience and perseverance with which he is pursuing it. We have the first volume of the great work before us. It has been prepared with much care and labour. In the preface the author has set forth the plan upon which he has proceeded. He has classified English words under the following heads: (1) Those for which there are exact or very near equivalents in Sanscrit; (2) those for which there are no equivalents, but the phrases in which they occur and the ideas conveyed by them are represented by different modes of expression; and (3) those which have evolved from new discoveries in science and thought and for which there are no equivalents or equivalent modes of expression. With regard to the third class of words Mr. Burrooah says, "my views almost coincide with those expressed not long ago by our distinguished countryman Dr. Rejendra lala Mitra. To coin new equivalents, expressive of the prominent ideas conveyed by new scientific and philosophical terms, is not only in harmony with the genius of the Sanscrit language, whose pliancy and malleability are unsurpassed, but is likely to facilitate the study of science and philosophy among our countrymen, who are not acquainted with foreign tongues." The present volume, which consists of 580 pages, is brought down to words commencing with the letter F.

WE HAVE received the first five numbers of the *Indian Tea Gazette*. It is neatly got up, and the matter, though confined to one subject, is sufficiently varied and interesting. The tea enterprise is becoming increasingly important so as to justify a special organ of its own. We would however recommend the editor to include jute, cotton, and indigo in his programme. These industries are of great importance and deserve a place in his journal. We wish our new brother every success.

WILL municipal scandals never cease? Mr. Tremearne was lately elected by the Municipal Commissioners of Serampore as their Vice-Chairman, and as an independent gentleman he did not say *jo hookum* to the Chairman, who is Magistrate of the Town. The result has been that Mr. Tremearne has been obliged to resign. The following letters explain the circumstances under which he has resigned:

July 25, 1877.

To

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SERAMPORE MUNICIPALITY.

SIR.—I observe that you hav convened a Special Meeting for Saturday next, to state to the Commissioners the circumstances under which I promised to resign, and to call upon me to do so.

2. It is of course competent for you to convene a Meeting whenever you may think proper, but you will pardon me for observing that in the present instance it was scarcely necessary, I voluntarily stated to Sir W. Herschel on Monday morning that I intended to resign office, and a reasonable time should surely have been allowed me to do so; before convening a Meeting of the Commissioners the object of which would appear to be to compel me to perform a promise which I had voluntarily made and which I have since carried out.

3. My letter of resignation was delivered to an officer of the Municipality within 36 hours of my promise to resign, and the haste with which you have convened a Special Meeting appears to me to be hardly decent. With this, however, I am not concerned at present.

4. As you thought proper to convene this Special Meeting I have considered it necessary to address a letter of explanation to the Commissioners, which I should otherwise not have done, that letter explains the reason which has induced me to resign my office, and which I would fain have not made public.

5. I request you to lay this letter and the one to the address of the Commissioners which accompanies it before the Special Meeting convened for Saturday next.

I have &c.

(Sd.) SHIRBY TREMEARNE

July 15th, 1877.

To

THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF SERAMPORE.

GENTLEMEN,—It is with deep regret that I find myself constrained to place in the hands of Government my resignation of the office of Vice-Chairman, to which you were pleased to elect me on the 19th May last, and also, that of a Commissioner, to which I was last year appointed.

2.—It has been apparent to you for some time past that there has been considerable friction between myself and the Chairman, owing to my having felt myself compelled to resist certain proceedings on his part, which I considered were in direct contravention of the Bye-laws and the Act. It is unnecessary for me here to allude to those differences in detail, because the circumstances are fully known to you, and because I believe that the opinions I have, from to time to time expressed, have met with the concurrence of a majority of the Commissioners.

3.—Up to last Sunday evening however, I had cherished a hope that these differences might be amicably adjusted and that I might still have continued to devote my services to the Municipality, because I was under the belief that the irregularities which I complained of, had mainly proceeded from oversight on the part of the Chairman, and would be corrected in future.

4.—On that day, however, meeting the Chairman on the steps of the Church after Evening service we entered into conversation regarding the Municipality and more especially with reference to an interview which I was to have on the morrow with Sir W. Herschel, at his request, with reference to the position and duties of a Vice-Chairman, and on my informing the Chairman that all I required was that he should act legally and constitutionally in accordance with the law, he replied, "damn the legality, common sense governs the law." (I think it right to mention that I asked the Chirman to consider our conversation as private, being under the impression that it was so, but he refused to do so, saying he had no secrets from his superiors and that on the next day in the presence of Sir W. Herschel he admitted that he had used these words).

5.—Gentlemen, it must be obvious to you that I cannot accord my unhesitating support to a Chairman who holds such opinions as these, who is ready when the law opposes his wishes, to damn legality and make the law subservient to his desire, by asserting that his desire is in accordance with common sense, and that the law must therefore yield to it,—and accordingly when Sir W. Herschel informed me on Monday morning that this was absolutely essential in a Vice-Chairman, I felt I had no option but to place my resignation in the hands of the Government.

I have &c.

(Sd.) SHIRBY TREMEARNE,

Vice-Chairman.

It is the old story over again. The Municipal Committee is a farce. The Magistrate is the all-in-all, and if any Commissioner has the hardihood to assert his independence, he must either like Lalchand be prepared to go to jail or like Mr. Tremearne forced to resign. What is the use then of keeping up these municipal farces? An autocracy would be much better than these representative shams. In this case the Magistrate would seem to have ignored altogether law, common sense, and common courtesy. We anxiously await Mr. Eden's decision upon it.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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ERRATUM.

Read Pubna Government School in lieu of Patna Government School 13 4 0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette, —*August* 1, 1877.

GENERAL.—*The 28th June* 1877.—Mr. H.A. D. Phillips, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Kendraparah, Cuttack, on leave, is transferred to the Patna Division and is appointed to have charge of the Sewan and Gopalgunge divisions of the Sarun district,

The 22nd July 1877.—Mr. Brajendranath De, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Durbhanga, is allowed leave for fourteen days, to enable him to attend the High Proficiency examination in Sanskrit to be held in Calcutta in October next.

Moulvi Abdool Wahab, Sub-Deputy Collector, employed on settlement duty in the Noabad talooks Chittagong, is allowed leave for two months and five days, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 28th instant, or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

The 25th July 1877.—Baboo Rushomoy Dutt, Sub-Deputy Collector, Noakholly, is allowed leave for six months, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

The 28th July 1877.—Baboo Isree Pershad, Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade at Banka, in the district of Bhagulpore, is transferred to Bettiah, in the district of Chumparun.

Baboo Shama Churn Dass, Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade at Bettiah, in the district of Chumparun, is transferred to Banka, in the District of Bhagulpore.

Mr. B. Wood, Settlement Officer, Sonthal Pergunnahs, reported his departure from India on leave on the afternoon of the 2st July 1877.

Mr. V. H. Schalch, C S I., of the Bengal Civil Service, reported his departure from India on the 16th May 1877.

The 30th July 1877.—Mr. E. Drummond, District and Sessions Judge, Sarun, is allowed leave for one month, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 29th August 1877.

Baboo Tarapersad Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bongong, having resumed charge of his office on the afternoon of the 6th instant, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him under orders of the 26th February last is cancelled.

The 1st July 1877.—Baboo Rajkishore Narain, Offg. Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade at Sewan, is confirmed in that grade, *vice* Moulvi Abdur Rezak, deceased, with effect from the 1st July 1877.

Baboo Shama Churn, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Second Grade, is confirmed in that grade, *vice* Baboo Rajkishore Narain, promoted, and is posted to Sasseram. Baboo Shama Churn will act in the First Grade of Sub-Deputy Collectors during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Gunga Nath Roy.

Baboo Roghu Nath Sahaye is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade for employment on duty connected with land registration at Shahabad, *vice* Baboo Shama Churn.

Mr. F. A. Slack, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Bogra, is transferred to Dinagepore.

Baboo Sreenath Bhudder Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code.

POLICE.—*The 25th July* 1877.—The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India has been pleased to grant an extension of furlough for two months and a half to Mr J. Lambert, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.

Mr. E. B. Baker, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, is allowed leave for one month and fifteen days, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 3rd August next, or any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

The 28th July 1877.—Baboo Hurri Narain Roy, B L., Moonsif of Barabari, in the district of Rungpore, is appointed to be Moonsif of Sherepore, in the district of Mymensingh, *vice* Baboo Dinobundhu Roy, transferred.

Baboo Dinobundhu Roy, L.L., Moonsif of Sharepore, in the district of Mymensingh, is appointed to be Moonsif of Barabari, in the district of Rungpore, *vice* Baboo Hurri Narain Roy, transferred.

Baboo Kalinath Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Noakholly, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the First Class.

Baboo Anund Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the First Class.

Baboo Gobind Chandra Bysakh, B.L., is appointed to officiate as Moonsif of Bograh, during the absence, on leave, of Baboo Abinash Chander Mitter, or until further orders.

Baboo Manna Lall Chatterjee, First Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 7th August 1877, or any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

CALCUTTA, 4TH AUGUST 1877.

A MEETING of the friends and admirers of the late Maharajah Ramanauth Tagore, C. S. I., will be held at the Town Hall on Friday next the 10th instant at 4-30 P. M., to adopt measures for commemorating the memory of the deceased Maharajah. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor will preside.

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6. The Evidence Act (I. of 1872),
7. The Contract Act (IX. of 1872),
8. The Oaths' Act (X. of 1873),
9. The Majority Act (IX. of 1875),
10. The Specific Relief Act (I. of 1877),
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BIRTH.—At Naga Hills on the 4th July 1877 at 8 o'clock 30 P. M., Srimotee Sevotee Borooani the wife of Jadub Chunder Borua, of a son.

NOTICE.

Tenders are invited for the execution of work in the Purneah District, during the ensuing cess year commencing 1st October 1867. The Road Cess Committee at their last annual meeting made the following allotments of funds for expenditure on 30 different roads

		Rs.
Earthwork	...	39,588
Masonry Bridges	...	19,908
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All information, about the form and conditions of Tender can be obtained from the undersigned. Tenders will be received up to the 19th August and opened on the following day.

W. FERNIL, *C. E.*,
District Engineer.

Purneah the 2nd August 1877.

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G. C. Chunder, Defendant's Attorney. (Sd.) R. BELCHAMBERS.
High Court Original Side, *Registrar.*
The 10th July 1877.

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